

# THE TIMES

MONDAY APRIL 30 1990

No 63,693

30p

## Poll tax shock for Thatcher

# Bring back the rating system, say 35 per cent

By Nicholas Wood and Robin Oakley

A RETURN to domestic rates is the most popular solution among the public to the dilemma the Government faces over how to relieve the political pain inflicted by the poll tax, according to an exclusive MORI poll for *The Times*.

In the wake of the confusion generated by last week's disclosures of the depth of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's concern about the reception accorded to the community charge, the survey shows that 35 per cent of people would prefer to go back to the old rating system, which she and her ministers have maintained is now discredited.

Equally surprising is the finding that nearly as many people - 29 per cent - believe that a local income tax would be the best way of financing local government - the policy espoused solely by the Liberal Democrats among the main political parties.

However, both the poll tax and Labour's alternative - the "roof tax" combining property values with ability to pay - remain relatively unpopular. Only 12 per cent of the electorate favour the community charge and only 15 per cent would prefer a roof tax.

The disclosures, making further grim reading for Mrs Thatcher and her ministers, come three days before the council elections in which more than 5,000 seats are at stake across the country, and the Conservatives face losses of 350 of their 1,570 seats on

current voting intentions. She will not be encouraged either, by MORI's findings that Labour enjoys a 34-point lead among those certain to vote in those elections, that her popularity among Tory supporters is at an all-time low at 38 per cent dissatisfied and that Labour is enjoying its highest-ever level of support among trade unionists.

The town hall results will be seen as a national verdict on the poll tax and the Prime Minister's increasingly uncertain hold on her party.

If the Conservatives do as badly as predicted, particularly in the high-profile Tory boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster and Bradford, which have all set their community charge at rock-bottom levels, speculation about her leadership and the need for even more drastic surgery on the poll tax than envisaged in Whitehall, is bound to intensify.

The Conservatives have invested great hopes in the success of a private poll that 71 per cent of people agreed with the principle of a poll tax paid by every adult. There are also signs from opinion polls and Tory canvass returns that the future of the tax will be affected by voting in the three boroughs.

Today, Mr Neil Kinnock will seek to exploit the "shambles" of the Government's attempts to reassure voters and Tory MPs that it is carrying out a fundamental review, possibly to the point of introducing a Bill.

Yesterday Labour and SLD leaders demanded that the Government "come clean" before voters go to the polls.

Senior Conservative sources maintained, however, that the publicity surrounding the Prime Minister's resolve to make changes to the community charge, amplified by Mr Mark Lemox-Boyd, her Parliamentary Private Secretary, in private conversations with Tory MPs, could make a "decisive contribution" to Thursday's poll by defusing the determination of former Tory supporters to register a protest vote.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the Opposition campaign co-ordinator, said: "It is not good enough for Government sources to hint that there may - or may not - be changes in the pipeline on the poll tax. Voters deserve to know now."

Mr Paddy Ashdown, who will be cheered by the level of support for a local income tax, called for a three-way televised debate on the issue.

MORI poll details, page 7

## BT holding loses \$550m

British Telecom is showing a paper loss of \$550 million (£337 million) on an investment in McCaw Cellular Communications. The largest US mobile telephone operator, McCaw shares have fallen from \$47.50 to \$25.25, valuing BT's stake at \$902 million ..... Page 25

**Denning attack**  
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## Prison delay

Charges against the rioters at the Strangeways prison may take two years to come to trial, sources have indicated. A huge police investigation has begun into the 25-day siege at the Manchester jail ..... Page 3

**Slovo's view**  
The African National Congress would grab at any way forward that involved no bloodshed. Mr Joe Slovo, the secretary-general of the South African Communist Party said ..... Page 11

## Hendry leads

Stephen Hendry was leading Jimmy White 14-10 in the final of the world Embassy snooker championship yesterday, needing a further four frames to become the youngest player to win the world title ..... Page 40

## Forest's cup

Nottingham Forest retained the Littlewoods Cup, beating Oldham Athletic, 1-0 at Wembley. Jenkinson scored the winning goal ..... Page 40

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Karpov: "One mistake, then it was over"

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

SINCE the ingenious Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen, engineer to the imperial court of Vienna in the mid-18th century, constructed his mechanical chess-playing Turk, it has been the dream of every inventor of chess machines to defeat the world's best human player. In a simultaneous display in Munich last week, this dream finally came true when, the Mephisto-Porterose Chess Computer took a game off Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet Union's world chess champion from 1975 to 1985 and again the challenger for the title this year.

Such simultaneous displays are extremely popular, and computers are featuring increasingly in them. Nevertheless, a computer has never before beaten a player who has held the world championship in any chess game under

whatever circumstances. Karpov's loss is thus historic, providing evidence of the advances being made by chess-playing computers.

Karpov took on 24 opponents at once in the Munich display. The computer was the only opponent to beat him. Although the Mephisto-Porterose machine is manufactured in Germany, the successful chess-playing program was written by Mr Richard Lang, a British scientist who lives and works at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The program has several times won the computer world chess championship.

Asked for a comment at the end of the game, the defeated Karpov replied: "It was the same as against (the world champion, Garry) Kasparov. I made one mistake and then it was over."

The Mephisto Chess micro-computers are commercial models available in shops. Hitherto they have seemed less

threatening to human champions than the great American university mainframe computers, such as Hitachi and Deep Thought, which have incredible number-crunching abilities.

Last October New York Kasparov, aged 26 and also from the Soviet Union, faced Deep Thought, a machine partially funded by the Pentagon and capable of visualizing a million chess positions every second, which had earlier beaten Bent Larsen, grandmaster. Kasparov avenged Larsen's humiliation by the crushing score of 2-0, but admitted that it was "uncanny and nerve-racking" playing against a ghost-like unseen opponent.

"I can't visualize living with the knowledge that a computer is stronger than the human mind," he said, referring to Larsen's defeat. "I had to challenge Deep Thought for this match to protect the human race."

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How to beat the blockade: Protesters riding through the centre of Vilnius yesterday in a show of defiance against Moscow's sanctions

## Britain's heatwave puts Spain in shade

By Lin Jenkins

THE first hosepipe ban heralded the true start of summer as southern England basked in temperatures higher than those in Spanish holiday resorts.

Temperatures in London yesterday reached 22 degrees Centigrade (72 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with 17 degrees Centigrade (63 Fahrenheit) on the rainy Costa del Sol. The highest temperature in London in April last year was 16 degrees Centigrade (61 Fahrenheit).

Most places south of a line from south-west Wales to the northern Wash had a hot, sunny day. While the unusually fine weather brought thousands of daytrippers on to the roads, water authorities and farmers voiced fears of another serious drought.

Much of England had a third or less of the normal rainfall last month, and in parts of the South-east the figure has fallen below 10 per cent. The figures for April are unlikely to show much improvement.

In parts of Kent, where the hosepipe ban comes into effect on Friday just weeks after the last one was lifted, reservoirs, rivers and ground water levels are at record lows. Bewl Water reservoir is less than 70 per cent full, at a time when the level should be well over 90 per cent.

In the area around Gravesend, Maidstone, Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey, where 170,000 homes are affected by the ban, 70 per cent of supplies come from underground sources.

"The problem is that we have had a dry couple of years and we are simply not getting the rainfall to replenish supplies. We need an awful lot of rain to solve the problem this year and to prevent it happening again next year," the Kent division of Southern Water said.

The dry summer of last year, coupled with low winter rainfall in some areas, means there will be further drought restrictions if the weather remains dry.

In north Kent, March rain continued on page 24, col 3

## Moscow and Vilnius edge towards a deal

From Anatol Lieven, Riga, Latvia

THE Soviet and Lithuanian Governments moved closer to an agreement yesterday after President Gorbachev's press spokesman said that Moscow would insist only on the "freezing", not the "revocation", of Lithuanian independence.

The Kremlin spokesman's remarks, made in response to a French and West German suggestion to this effect, were welcomed by President Landsbergis of Lithuania. The Soviet economic sanctions against Lithuania were also apparently eased yesterday, according to reports from the Azotus glue and fertilizer plant at Jonava. Managers there said they had been told that most of their normal supplies of natural gas, their basic raw material, will be restored today. Supplies will be raised from 0.6 million cubic metres daily to 3 million, or two-thirds of the normal total. The workers laid off at Jonava last week will now return to work.

The Soviet move seems in accordance not just with the general easing of tension, but

also with what has been a general Soviet policy of trying to keep "all union" factories in Lithuania going by continuing to provide them with essential raw materials. One reason for this has been that the factories in question often play an essential part in production processes across the Soviet Union.

The factories, in turn, effectively decided to ignore Lithuanian government orders and continue to export via their ministries in Moscow.

President Landsbergis' comment that the proposal to "suspend the reinforcement of the decision on independence of March 11 is constructive and worthy of careful consideration" suggests that an agreement may now be near.

There had been suggestions from Lithuania for almost two weeks, in response to unofficial suggestions from Moscow, that the republic would be willing to suspend the implementation of some or all of the laws stemming from the declaration of independence. The key ones from the Soviet

## Another hostage 'to be freed'

From Juan Carlos Gamazo west Beirut

UNIDENTIFIED Muslim extremists yesterday said they would free another American hostage by tomorrow night. A brief statement delivered to a Beirut newspaper and a Western news agency, along with photographs of Mr Frank Herbert Reed, aged 57, said that the teacher would be freed to convey "a message to President Bush".

A question still hanging over the prospect of compromise is whether Moscow may still demand a suspension of the declaration of independence or whether it will content itself with something that can be called a "suspension of the independence process".

Another question raised would be that of the effects of a compromise on Latvia and Estonia, whose huge Russian populations, some think, make a continued formal link with the Soviet Union almost inevitable. A partial climb-down by Vilnius may strengthen the hands of those Latvian deputies suggesting that the expected Latvian declaration of independence later this week should be accompanied by an offer to Moscow of a loose "confederation".

The announcement, a surprise in the wake of hostile comments about the US by a radical Shia Muslim leader in Lebanon and the hardline *Jumhuriya Islami* newspaper in Tehran, was made exactly one week after Mr Robert Polhill was freed by the pro-Iranian "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine".

Soviet future, page 12

## View on royalty comes under fire

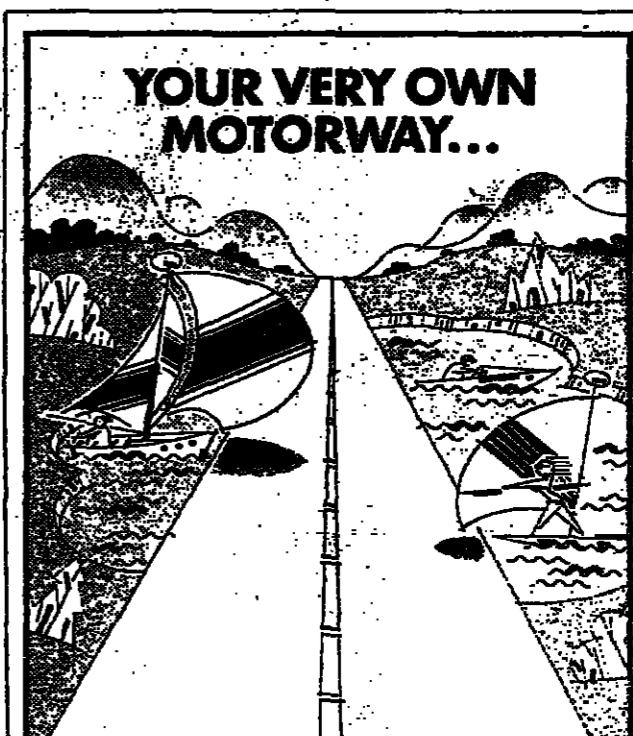
By Michael Binyon and Nicholas Wood

MRS Thatcher's critics yesterday roundly condemned her warning at the Dublin summit that the British people feared moves towards European political union could jeopardize the position of the Queen.

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, insisted that as a constitutional monarchy, devoid of powers, the Royal Family had nothing to fear from the changes being discussed in the EC.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "Mrs Thatcher seems worried not so much about Queen Elizabeth II but about Queen Margaret the Pre-tender."

Both Mr Heath and Mr Kaufman argued that the five other EC countries with constitutional monarchs saw no threat to their existing



West Lancs with its towns of Ormskirk and Skelmersdale connects nationwide via its own M58 motorway linked to M6 and M62. Only a quick motorway trip from the Lake District, and with the West Pennine Moors and the Yorkshire Dales on the doorstep. Just 30 minutes from the UK's second largest population concentration, West Lancs greenfield sites offer pastures new to industry and commerce.

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THE WEST LANC'S PROJECT

# Britain may have to make 'green' reports to the UN

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN may find itself bound to make annual reports to the United Nations on its environmental progress after Europe's first international conference on sustainable development, or "green growth".

The idea will be put forward at the conference, which begins in Bergen, Norway, on May 8, by the Norwegian government as a way of giving teeth to the wide-ranging environmental commitments expected to be made by 34 nations from Western and Eastern Europe as well as the United States and Canada.

It may give Mr Christopher Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, a new weapon in his ambitious but apparently faltering attempt at the "greening" of Whitehall.

The commitments in the conference's final declaration

are likely to include several of the most important projects Mr Patten hoped to include in the forthcoming environment White Paper but which have been running into opposition inside Whitehall.

They include environmental systems of national accounting to show "green GDP" as well as the merely financial balance sheet, a determined campaign on energy efficiency, and a public commitment to "reduce the harmful effects of the transport sector".

Mrs Kristin Hille Valle, Norway's environment minister, said: "We will propose annual reports for two reasons. It is important each country should control itself and keep a record of what it is doing, and it is important to be able to compare national records because pollution knows no national bound-

daries." The conference, which will last until May 16, is the European follow-up to the Brundtland Report, the influential 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, until last year Prime Minister of Norway.

The report said that only economic growth could prevent the countries of the Third World from falling further into poverty, but it had to be development that was "sustainable", growth that did not destroy the environment. The only way to achieve it, the report said, was to integrate environmental considerations into all economic policy.

Next week's conference will seek a detailed commitment to the principles of sustainable developments from the industrialized nations, in advance of the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil.

At that conference, it is hoped that the Third World and the industrialized countries will agree on how to proceed with economic growth without, for example, destroying the rain forests of the Amazon.

● The Government's forthcoming White Paper on the Environment must transform the balance of policy in favour of the environment right across Whitehall, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (Christopher Warman writes).

It must include not only the Department of the Environment, but agricultural, transport, energy and economic policies, the council urges in a submission to the department published today.

"All need radical redirection to meet the environmental challenges of the future," it says. "Vague rhetoric, exhortation and limited gestures will not do."

The submission, entitled "From White Paper to Green Future", highlights a need for a commitment to countryside protection, which, if says, should be at the heart of any new environmental policy.



## Palumbo takes City site ruling to Lords

By Jamie Delmer

THE long-running dispute over the redevelopment of the Mappin & Webb site of Victorian buildings in the City of London took another surprising turn yesterday after it emerged that Mr Peter Palumbo, in his role as property developer, had petitioned the House of Lords in an attempt to overturn a recent legal ruling blocking his plans.

Mr Palumbo, whose £140million scheme for the site has been described by the Prince of Wales as resembling a "1930s wireless", petitioned the House of Lords on Friday seeking leave to appeal against last month's Court of Appeal decision, which found against the development. The move has surprised his opponents, including the pressure group Save Britain's Heritage.

Last month's Court of Appeal ruling quashed a decision by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the former environment secretary, to allow the demolition

of eight listed buildings on the site, which is just opposite the Mansion House. The judge refused the Department of the Environment leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

In their ruling, they said that Mr Ridley had not given adequate reasons for finding in favour of the development. They said his decision was "fatally flawed". Mr Ridley gave the go-ahead for the development after a public inquiry into the plans. The inspector from the department had said the development "might just be a masterpiece".

Mr Palumbo said after the Court of Appeal ruling that he would seek further detailed legal advice. He had a month to decide to petition the Lords.

Mr Palumbo's petition argues that the Court of Appeal's ruling was wrong and that the issues raised are of general public interest.

Dr Oliphant Jackson, chairman of the British Chelonia Group, a charity registered to conserve tortoises, terrapins and turtles, focusing his camera on the underside of a tortoise as part of a computer record. Each plastron, as the underside is known, varies in colour and

patterning in much the same way as fingerprints, and the group has combined with the Conservation Research Group in Cambridge to make a register to identify lost or stolen tortoises or illegal imports, and to help in breeding programmes and research projects.

## Health care urged for teachers

By David Tyder, Education Editor

TIME off should be given to women teachers for cancer screening and more attention should be paid to looking after mothers during pregnancy and on their return to the classroom, a teachers' union says today.

Guidelines published by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers call for the Government, education authorities and governors to begin a health care campaign for women teachers.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, its general secretary, said: "The union appreciates the effects of increased workloads on all teachers, but it is particularly concerned that the many women who take on the dual role of teacher and home provider/carer will neglect their health unless positive health care programmes are introduced."

The union points out that the falling population will mean more women being required to work. More than

12 million are expected to be in work by 1995. In primary schools the majority of teachers are women. In 1986 7,775 women applied for primary teacher training compared to 942 men.

The latest figures also show that ill health among teachers is increasing. One local authority reports that days lost through sickness have doubled to 22,000 in the past four

Education, page 21

## PR men come to rescue of ministers

By Richard Evans  
Media Editor

INSTEAD of shooting the messenger because of the unpopularity of the policy or message, high-profile Cabinet ministers are to be accorded the services of leading advertising and public relations executives in an attempt to make their utterances more acceptable.

Three senior ministers have agreed to receive specialist advice about communications strategy, a fourth is considering the idea and others are expected to follow. The move, which comes as the Conservatives continue their plunge in the opinion polls, follows a dinner hosted by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Tory party chairman, attended by leaders of the advertising and PR firms.

It calls for better sex education in schools, greater publicity for contraception, better family planning services and improved NHS abortion clinics to reduce delays leading to late terminations.

Miss Harriet Harman, a Labour health spokesman, said she expects more MPs to sign the motion today.

## House sales low

House sales in the first quarter of the year totalled 323,784, or 5 per cent below the same period of 1989 and 23 per cent below those of the 1988 first quarter, the Adams Residential Property Index said in a new survey. They were the worst figures since 1983, it said.

## Peace rally

Thousands of people attended a peace rally in Downpatrick, Co Down, yesterday to pay their last respects to four Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers murdered in a huge IRA bomb explosion. The march, led by Protestant and Catholic clergy, was the biggest peace rally for some years.

## Mr John MacGregor

The Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances, a 100-year-old charity with the Queen as its patron, is to hold an emergency meeting to find ways of spending some of its £7.5 million bank balance. Money is used generously but interest keeps swelling its coffers.

## CORRECTION

Barking and Dagenham Council asks us to make clear that the spelling error in an advertisement mentioned in the Diary (April 10) was made not by it, but by Times Newspapers, and also that the council was never part of the Ica.

# MERCEDES-BENZ 1ST AND 2ND



MONZA, ITALY - SUNDAY 29 APRIL 1990:

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE WORLD SPORTS CAR CHAMPIONSHIP WAS DOMINATED BY MERCEDES-BENZ, WITH THE WINNING CAR DRIVEN BY MAURO BALDI AND JEAN-LOUIS SCHLESSER FINISHING 18 SECONDS IN FRONT OF THE SECOND MERCEDES C 11 OF JOCHEN MASS AND KARL WENDLINGER. WHILE BALDI AND SCHLESSER ENJOYED A TROUBLE-FREE RACE, MASS SPUN ON LAP 1 AND REJOINED SECOND LAST. WITH THE HELP OF CO-DRIVER WENDLINGER, MASS RECOVERED SUPERBLY RETAKING SECOND PLACE ON THE PENULTIMATE LAP AND SETTING A NEW LAP RECORD IN THE PROCESS. (RESULT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION)

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# Jail rioters may not go to trial for two years

HOME Office sources have indicated that it could be two years before charges against the rioters at the Strangeways prison come to trial. The news came as a huge police investigation began into the 25-day siege at the Manchester jail.

The sources pointed out that 41 prisoners charged with riot and damage after a much smaller disturbance at the Risley remand centre, in Cheshire a year ago, have still to be brought to trial, and indicated that it could be two years before the Strangeways inmates would be able to be brought before a court.

At the same time it was revealed that the Home Office was facing a £1 million claim for compensation over the riot. Scores of home-owners and business people living and working around the Victorian prison are seeking damages for disrupted lives and lost trade.

The police investigation into the affair, which ended last Wednesday, will include interviewing each of the 1,650 prisoners who were in the jail when the riot broke on Sunday, April 1.

It has already been an "Court error" led to boy's prison night

AN MP is calling for a Home Office inquiry into how boy aged 12 came to spend a night on remand in Pentonville prison (Stewart Tendler writes). The boy, accused of stealing a purse, was eventually moved to a youth custody centre.

Yesterday Mr Geoffre Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, said he planned to raise the case with Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary. "I find it breathtaking that such a bungle could have occurred and I shall be demanding to know all the circumstances of this accident," he said.

The boy, said to look younger than his actual years, appeared before magistrates on a Saturday last month. He was remanded in custody and taken to Pentonville prison, which acts as a remand centre for central London at weekends. Prison staff realized the boy must be very young and placed him overnight in the prison's hospital wing. On the Sunday the boy was taken to the youth custody centre at Feltham.

According to the Home Office yesterday, there may have been some confusion in the magistrates' court about the boy's age.

A spokesman said: "In normal circumstances or on any other day he would have gone to Feltham. He was kept in the hospital wing overnight without any great distress."

# Hawk takes the City's pigeons under his wing

TONY WHITE



## Dignity stressed in guidelines on care of elderly

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

NEW guidance to safeguard standards of care in residential homes for the elderly after the implementation of community care reforms next April is to be launched by Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister for Health, this morning.

The document from the Social Services Inspectorate has been sent to all local authorities to help the new independent inspection units now being set up to monitor and safeguard care in both private, voluntary and local authority homes.

Under the reforms local authorities will take financial responsibility for the care of the elderly in the community and decide whether they need residential care, which they can buy from the private sector or provide themselves.

Authorities will also be required to set up independent units to inspect all types of residential homes. At present councils only have to inspect private homes.

Much of the advice refers to earlier papers calling for greater choice for residents over lifestyle and care, the need to safeguard a resident's rights, and the aim of fostering independence, privacy and dignity.

No residents should be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment or forced to undertake any tasks against their will, the report says. People should have the freedom to withdraw from care and treatment. Family and private life should be respected and sexual relation-

ships and marriages should be permitted between residents.

If there was a need to interfere with an individual's rights to protect that person or someone else, any such action should be recorded and reviewed regularly. The homes should "provide a physical environment that enables residents to do as much as possible for themselves without having to rely on staff assistance or having things done for them".

The document emphasizes that it does not offer "an immutable set of standards" for all aspects of residential homes provision but gives advice on management, care and a good quality of life.

*Guidance on Standards for Residential Homes for Elderly People* (Department of Health Social Services Inspectorate, Stationery Office, £6)

● National Health Service watchdogs have complained to the Department of Health about two internal documents circulated to NHS managers, about the future of community health councils after the implementation of NHS reforms.

The Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales says the two papers suggest that the councils should not be involved in drawing up the new NHS contracts, should have no role in respect of the GP budget holders and should not be consulted formally about setting up NHS trusts or closing hospitals.

## Equipment shortage hits BSB's big launch

By Richard Evans  
Media Editor

THE second phase of the satellite television revolution began last night when British Satellite Broadcasting started beaming programmes on five new channels direct to viewers' homes.

However, BSB suffered the same fate as Sky Television when it launched 14 months ago — and many could not watch the output. BSB had hoped to have about 50,000 receiver kits in the shops by yesterday but said it was let down by suppliers.

Around 300,000 homes with cable TV were, however, able to tune in. The £1.3 billion venture has suffered more than its fair share of technical, business and internal problems and yesterday's launch was six months later than planned.

Mr Anthony Simonds-Gooding, BSB's chief executive, said: "We intend to honour what is best in British broadcasting whilst broadening choice and giving greater power to the viewer."

"BSB is in the best traditions of British enterprise. It is ambitious, innovative, committed to quality and based upon a long-term view of the future."

The TV station announced yesterday that it had reached agreement with the All England Lawn Tennis club to show extended highlights of the 1990 Wimbledon championships in peak viewing time.

Sport page 35

George the Harris hawk, who has made the feathers fly among the pigeon population of the Broadgate Centre at Liverpool Street station, in the City of London, with Mrs Sue Vanvack, his handler.

Mrs Vanvack and her husband Alan, who keep 28 birds at their home in the Essex village of Chadwell St Mary, have turned their hobby of falconry into a business. "Someone noticed our hawks frightening off smaller birds and asked if we could scare some sparrows for them," Mrs Vanvack said. After that the

contracts trickled in, and they now have eight. The regular presence of the hawk at the Broadgate Centre has scared away the pigeons, who avoid roosting there now that George has established it as his territory.

Although he has not killed any of them, he has brought down birds on other pest control assignments.

The hawk has a tiny radio transmitter fixed to his back so that his handlers can keep track of him through a receiver. Usually, though, he returns to them when they blow a whistle.

## Merchant shipping fleet 'is below critical level'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE number of merchant seamen available to support Britain's armed forces in a crisis or war has fallen below a critical level, according to a report commissioned by the United Kingdom Centre for Maritime Policy Studies.

The report, which highlighted the continuing rapid reduction in vessels and men, gave a warning that the British-owned merchant shipping fleet could be "threatened with extinction".

Between 1975 and 1988, the British-owned merchant fleet fell from 1,614 ships, totalling 50 million tonnes, to 437 ships and 8,600,000 tonnes. In the same period the number of registered officers and ratings fell from 41,432 and 39,152 to 9,444 and 13,320 respectively. The numbers were continuing to drop by 10 per cent a year.

Yet, according to estimates in the report, the critical levels for defence purposes alone, if there were a full-scale Nato war, were 269 ships, 5,123 officers and 7,888 ratings.

Those would be the numbers for Britain to meet its commitments for the reinforcement of Europe from North America (the North Atlantic Seafarers); the reinforcement of Europe from Britain and direct support for the Royal Navy.

The report, which highlighted the continuing rapid reduction in vessels and men, gave a warning that the British-owned merchant shipping fleet could be "threatened with extinction".

As far as manpower was concerned, over half the merchant shipping crew members would be needed to meet the maximum military requirements.

Although not every task would require all-British crews, the key senior officer posts at least would have to be filled by UK or Nato citizens, the report said.

The study concluded that overall defence and economic re-supply requirements "would absorb the total UK-owned fleet and more, particularly general cargo ships". It added: "There are now insufficient seafarers to man this total fleet and thus the UK would be dependent on foreign crews being willing to enter the war zone."

The report was carried out for the maritime policy studies centre by the Department of Shipping and Transport at the Polytechnic South West, Plymouth.

Yesterday, Mr David Tomlinson, director of the centre, said that for the first time even the Ministry of Defence had begun to acknowledge that there were problems.

The defence White Paper published earlier this month claimed that in general there were enough vessels on the UK register to support the armed forces in war but it admitted that the position was "tight in some categories".

*The UK Shipping Industry Critical Levels Study* (British Maritime Charitable Foundation, £20)

## Changes mean more in jail probation officers say

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

GOVERNMENT plans to overhaul sentencing practices are likely to increase the prison population, not reduce it as intended, the National Association of Probation Officers says today.

The association, in its formal response to the criminal justice White Paper published in February, supports the overall aim of improving sentencing consistency and reducing the use of custody, but says the tactics are "deeply flawed" and "inadequately costed".

Ministers have said the net effect of the proposals should be to reduce the jail population, which, in spite of a fall of over 2,000 over the past year, continues to dwarf proportionately, its counterparts in Western Europe. No figures have been given, but the White Paper spoke of a "significant reduction".

The association, however,

flatly rejects the prediction. It says the impact of the new sentencing criteria and non-custodial sanctions would be more than offset by the proposal that offenders receiving prison terms should serve a greater proportion of their sentences in jail.

It accepts the Home Office's calculation that new non-custodial punishments and cuts in maximum sentences for theft and non-domestic burglary would reduce the daily prison population by up to 2,400. But it argues that the estimate that parole changes would raise the figure by 1,400 is far too low, claiming that 2,000 to 3,000 is nearer the mark.

On that arithmetic, there would be a net gain in the population of up to 600 offenders. Ministers, however, believe the association has under-estimated the enthusiasm judges and magistrates

what will be seen as a crucial interference with the free market. The problem is that art prices have more than doubled in five years and the Government is able to preserve fewer than half of the items recommended by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, which has the power to recommend delaying export licences.

The safety net when all else fails is the National Heritage Memorial Fund which has a basic income of no more than £3 million a year, although this is boosted in most years by specific grants.

The Fund has said that under-funding was making it increasingly powerless to save paintings and sculptures. Purchase grants for

## Denning attacks decision to free Winchester Three

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

LORD Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, in a letter to *The Times* today, roundly attacks the decision of the Court of Appeal to quash the convictions of the Winchester Three because their case might have been prejudiced by remarks on abandoning the right to silence.

In the judgement on Friday the judges referred to comments on government plans to curtail the right to silence made during the trial two years ago by Mr Tom King, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Lord Denning. At that stage of the trial the defendant accused of plotting to kill Mr King, had elected not to give evidence.

Lord Denning, the appeal judges were told, argued for the abolition of the right to silence in an interview on Channel 4. In the judgement Lord Justice Beldam said that Lord Denning's reputation

and influence on the subject of the law were unique. "For some lawyers, and most laymen, his pronouncements represent the law," he added.

In his letter Lord Denning says that the judgement implies a breach of the Contempt of Court Act but that he had a proper defence, speaking in

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one key question is what happens after 20 years if the Barclay brothers have purchased the Canova and then wish to sell it at a profit? Would domestic speculators be able to purchase any work of art item?



Lord Denning: Spoke on the matter in good faith

Letters, page 15

Leading article, page 15

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## Ministers' saving grace likely to infuriate art world

By Robin Oakley  
Political Editor

CANOVA'S "The Three Graces" is likely to stay in Britain as a result of planned changes to the rules on the export of works of art. They are likely to infuriate the art trade.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, are to reverse traditional policy on rescuing items for the national heritage with public money only. They are ready to alter the "Waverley Rules" governing such cases, which would mean backing a private deal to keep the Canova in Britain.

They expect an outcry from auction houses and art dealers over

museums and galleries have been static for four years and they can no longer compete for items such as the £7.6 million Canova.

Two offers from the private sector have come after the news of the sale to the Getty Museum in California. Mr Jacob Rothschild, the financier, has produced a scheme to buy the sculpture and set the sum against the value of a relative's estate. This would in effect mean taxpayers purchasing the work.

The Scottish entrepreneurs David and Frederick Barclay have also offered to pay the £7.6 million, guaranteeing to put the sculpture on public view for 20 years, alternating between the Victoria & Albert museum and a Scottish gallery.

Ministers are prepared to end that restriction, which would leave the Cayman Islands Trust, which owns the Canova, little option but to sell to a private bidder in Britain. If they do that, however, there will be complaints about moving the goal posts in the course of a game, and they will be setting crucial precedents.

One key question is what happens after 20 years if the Barclay brothers have purchased the Canova and then wish to sell it at a profit? Would domestic speculators be able to purchase any work of art item?

## AGENDA

The week ahead

Today The world's first female diocesan bishop, the Right Rev Penelope Jamieson, of New Zealand, arrives on a visit to Britain. The Hansard Society publishes its study on television in the Commons. Mr Robert Steel, CBE, a 70-year-old grandfather, leaves London on a 2,000-mile walk around the English coastline to raise money for the National Trust.

Tomorrow Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, answers questions from the Commons Defence Committee on defence spending estimates for 1990. The Queen visits the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to re-open the Queen's House. Goya's "The Naked Maja" and "The Clothed Maja" go on display at the National Gallery.

Wednesday At the start of his visit to Britain, Archbishop Desmond Tutu delivers a lecture at Exeter University on injustice. Chris Bonington sets off on an expedition to Tibet.

Thursday Polls open for the local government elections, with the Conservatives bracing themselves for their biggest setback in almost 20 years. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the former West German Chancellor, gives the 1990 Dimbleby Lecture on "Europe in the Nineties." The BBC announces the line-up for this year's Proms season.

Friday President Mitterrand arrives in Britain for meetings with Mrs Thatcher as part of the Anglo-French Summit.

Saturday A memorial concert to John Lennon is held in Liverpool.

Sunday The 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers begins a 100-mile run from Oxford to London to raise money for the "Baby Fund" at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

Brit

# RITZ OF THE SKIES

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According to a leading travel writer the Ritz has a serious rival. Us. Such high praise is understandable when you fly Air New Zealand's award winning Business Class. The check-in is fast, the V.I.P. lounge tranquil. On board the complimentary champagne quenches the appetite for dinner. Steak Béarnaise

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BUSINESS CLASS

at 30,000ft, rare indeed. Also expect fine bone china and fine wines. And with any premier hotel the room is exceptional. With each tent covered in pure soft lambswool. Who said long-hauls have their shortcomings? Perhaps the writer who mistakenly flew on another airline. Reservations on 0800 000 000.

# Oxfam bows to ruling on sanctions campaign

By Jamie Dettmer

OXFAM complied with a ruling by the Charity Commissioners yesterday and temporarily dropped plans to campaign in favour of sanctions against South Africa.

The commissioners, who are holding an inquiry to decide whether Oxfam has broken the law by engaging in "undue political activity", ordered the withdrawal of leaflets calling for sanctions on the eve of the launch of the charity's "Front Line Africa" campaign.

The charity said, however: "It is still Oxfam's policy to say that sanctions should be maintained, because we think this is the best way of helping to achieve peace and development in South Africa and the region as a whole. We base that claim on many years' experience of working in South Africa."

"We will be defending vigorously our position at the inquiry. In the meantime, we

## Crosswords stump all but three

By John Great  
Crossword Editor

ONLY three of the 175 contestants at the Birmingham regional final of *The Times* Colins' Dictionaries Crossword Championship held at the Grand Hotel yesterday managed to complete all four puzzles correctly.

Mr Clive Spate, aged 38, of Woodthorpe, Nottingham, emerged as champion, completing the four puzzles in an average time of 13½ minutes each. He teaches mathematics at Queen Elizabeth's Boys School, Mansfield.

Mr David Meadows, aged 56, a retired information scientist from Alavaston, Derby, was second, taking one minute longer per puzzle.

Third was Mr Philip Navin, aged 40, who is head of mathematics at St John's School, Episkopi, Cyprus, who came over to Britain on his half-term to compete in the regional final.

All three go forward to the national final in London on September 3. Mr Simon Chillingworth came fourth.

## Historic aircraft fail to take off

By John Shaw

A REPLICA of a Hawker Fury fighter made the top price of £198,000 at Christie's sale of historic aircraft at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, at the weekend.

It was built for Mr Patrick Lindsay, a director of Christie's and a flying enthusiast. It provided a bright spot in a sale of mixed fortunes which made £724,537.

Only 15 of the 43 aircraft on offer sold. Two were withdrawn and 26 went unsold, including a SE5a fighter from the First World War and a MiG 21PF, one of the fastest fighters in the world.

Buying was selective. A 1938 Bucker Jungmeister, the famous aerobatic favourite, made £66,000, a 1953 Cessna 195B and a Mitchell B25 bomber each made £49,500, and a 1936 Focke-Wulf Stieglitz trainer £44,000.

There was keen interest in aviation books, ephemera and clothing. Small aluminium aircraft models were in demand; a Flying Fortress made £2,420 (£400-£600), and a Mikl Spitfire £2,640 (£200-£300). A Second World War USAF leather flying jacket,

the back painted with a line of bombs, a glamorous girl and the name "Sandus", sold for £1,100 (£280-£320).

A wartime RAF fur-lined flying jacket and suit made £1,430 (£500-£800), and an RAF mess clock by Smith's, 1942, went to a £2,200 (£300-£500).

Meanwhile Christie's in New York sold clocks and watches for \$1.7 million (£1.1 million). A Patek Philippe

gold wristwatch with a chronograph movement went well above high estimate to £154,000 (£94,475).

Designs for the Centotaph in Whitehall sketched one evening during dinner by Sir Edwin Lutyens in July 1919, have been acquired by the Imperial War Museum with the help of a National Art Collections Fund grant. They were sold at Sotheby's in London for £12,000.

The British golfer Sandy Lyle casting a watchful eye over David Evans, a former leukemia victim, playing out of a bunker at Wentworth yesterday as they promoted the second annual "Sandy's Stableford" charity event.

The tournament is played in aid of the Paul O'Gorman Foundation for children with leukaemia.

David, aged 14, who plays off a handicap of 13, was one of the thousands of golfers who responded to the Stableford appeal when it was introduced last year, raising more than £100,000.

## Labour plans 190mph track to Edinburgh

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

AMBITIONOUS plans for 190mph trains running from London to Scotland are being drawn up by the Labour Party as part of its response to the controversy raging over the high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel.

The proposals to be unveiled next month by Mr John Prescott, the chief opposition transport spokesman, envisage a dedicated "fast track" from the capital to Edinburgh with feeder lines to major cities and towns in the North, the West Country and Midlands.

The aim is to ensure that the rest of Britain enjoys the benefits of a high-speed link to the Continent and to enable the railways to compete with air travel.

British Rail's existing proposals using new trains are more modest, a dedicated high-speed link to the Channel Tunnel from London on which up to 15 inter-capital trains will run to Paris and Brussels, reaching speeds of up to 80 mph in Kent and 180 mph on the Continent, plus through services on existing track to the west and east of the country.

Mr Prescott's proposals face formidable obstacles, such as the cost of building a new main line and the difficulties of obtaining planning consent. He is to seek to persuade the European Commission to release some of its £9.5 billion structural funds for the project and he is holding talks with financiers about a private-sector input. He believes that developers could be persuaded to put up money in return for planning consents around new junctions.

Options for the new trains that would be needed include those already planned by BR

or importing high-speed technology from France, Germany or Japan. It is understood that Mr Prescott is still examining those possibilities and is likely to set out his thinking in a paper to a local authority transport conference on June 18.

He outlined his ambitious new ideas in a little noticed speech last week in Leeds. "We need a high speed rail network. Only half the BR preferred route will be electrified. Our rail gauge is insufficient to meet the greater standards of requirements of many European countries. Many trains in France travel more than twice as fast as the 120 mph in Britain, and to compete for the economic advantages we need modernization now," he said.

"Britain needs a dedicated passenger and freight network to meet the opportunities of the Channel Tunnel. Putting new trains with new potential on old and already congested lines and junctions is ridiculous. It is inefficient.

The Channel Tunnel rail

link must provide the greatest economic advantage to the whole of Britain from Scotland and the North to Wales and the West Country, fully integrated to the cross-London link and including trains travelling straight from Dover, while guaranteeing environmental protection in the South-east.

The BR preferred route does not meet these objectives. So other options must be considered."

Mr Prescott also reiterated his view that the Government should repeal Section 42 of the Channel Tunnel Act so that public money could be provided for the high-speed link in Kent.

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COMMERCIAL MORTGAGES



## THE 1990 ROLEX AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE.

1976 marked 50 years of the Rolex Oyster and the foundation of The Rolex Awards for Enterprise. Since then, Rolex has awarded many individuals who have demonstrated the true spirit of enterprise in their fields of endeavour. In the process,

many projects have been brought to fruition which otherwise might never have been realised. A book detailing the projects of the five Rolex Laureates and over 250 other projects has been published by Buri International, Switzerland.

## Commitment.

The first Indonesian environmental education centre. It was during long school vacations spent on his uncle's farm in Java that Suryo Praviroatmodjo developed a passionate love for Nature.

Over time, this has matured into a deep commitment to the environment and a desire to awaken the ecological conscience of the young.

Now Suryo is well on the way to completing construction of Indonesia's first ever environmental education centre. A haven of calm, its mountain-side site is skirted by primary forest.

Horrified by his fellow countrymen's attitude to the environment, Suryo believes it is vital that the centre should succeed in its aims.

"I am extremely frightened that one day I might lose my beloved country," he says.



## Enthusiasm.

Establishing Europe's first wildlife teaching hospital. An English back garden is the unlikely setting for the home of the Wildlife Hospital Trust, founded twelve years ago by Les Stocker.

Devoted to wildlife since his childhood, and distressed to discover that Britain has few facilities for treating wildlife casualties, Les has

channelled his enthusiasm into developing the Trust with, at its centre, St. Tiddlers' hospital for hedgehogs.

Now construction plans are well on their way for his most ambitious project: a Wildlife Teaching Hospital. It will house veterinary and training facilities uniquely geared to caring for wildlife and a permanent reference library - established with the help of the Award from Rolex.



## Ingenuity.

Laser restoration of the Qin Dynasty Army. Ever since his first experiments in Venice in 1972, John Asmus has pioneered the use of lasers in removing dirt and incrustations from works of art to restore them to their original appearance.

Now he intends to develop this ingenious process still further and use lasers to revitalise and

preserve the colours found on some of the 6,000 warriors of the famous Qin Dynasty terra-cotta army. The Chinese researchers had found that the original paint pigments rapidly disappeared after exposure to air.

John plans to travel to China in the summer of 1990 to begin experiments. It could be a lengthy process - the Chinese estimate there are at least three more armies buried there!



## Concern.

Arco Iris saving the last forests of the Brazilian Northeast. While conducting ornithological studies in Brazil, Anita Stuedt discovered a small bird previously thought extinct. "Study the bird," her fellow researcher warned, "but do it quickly, because in ten years' time there will be no forest."

From that moment, the focus of Anita's

concern shifted, and has now taken the shape of the Arco Iris (Rainbow) project.

This pilot scheme involves the young people of the largely deforested Pedra Talhada area in Friends of the Trees' clubs to promote ecological awareness.

The Award from Rolex will help these clubs establish tree nurseries and set in motion a programme of reforestation.



## Adventure.

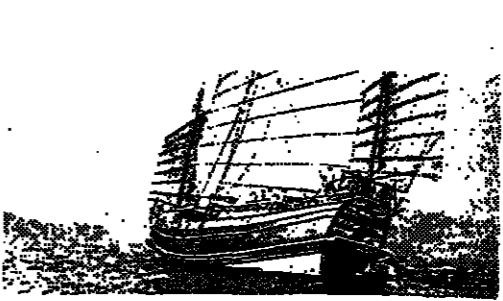
Setting sail in the wake of Marco Polo. In 1292 Marco Polo sailed from the Chinese port of Quanzhou and arrived in Venice two years later.

Now a British doctor living in Hong Kong intends to retrace this voyage.

Dr Wayne Moran started building a scale replica of a junk of Marco Polo's era in 1986.

Making extensive use of computers in its design, Dr. Moran has constructed a 75-ton vessel named *Conchuan* after the princess whom Marco Polo was escorting to Persia.

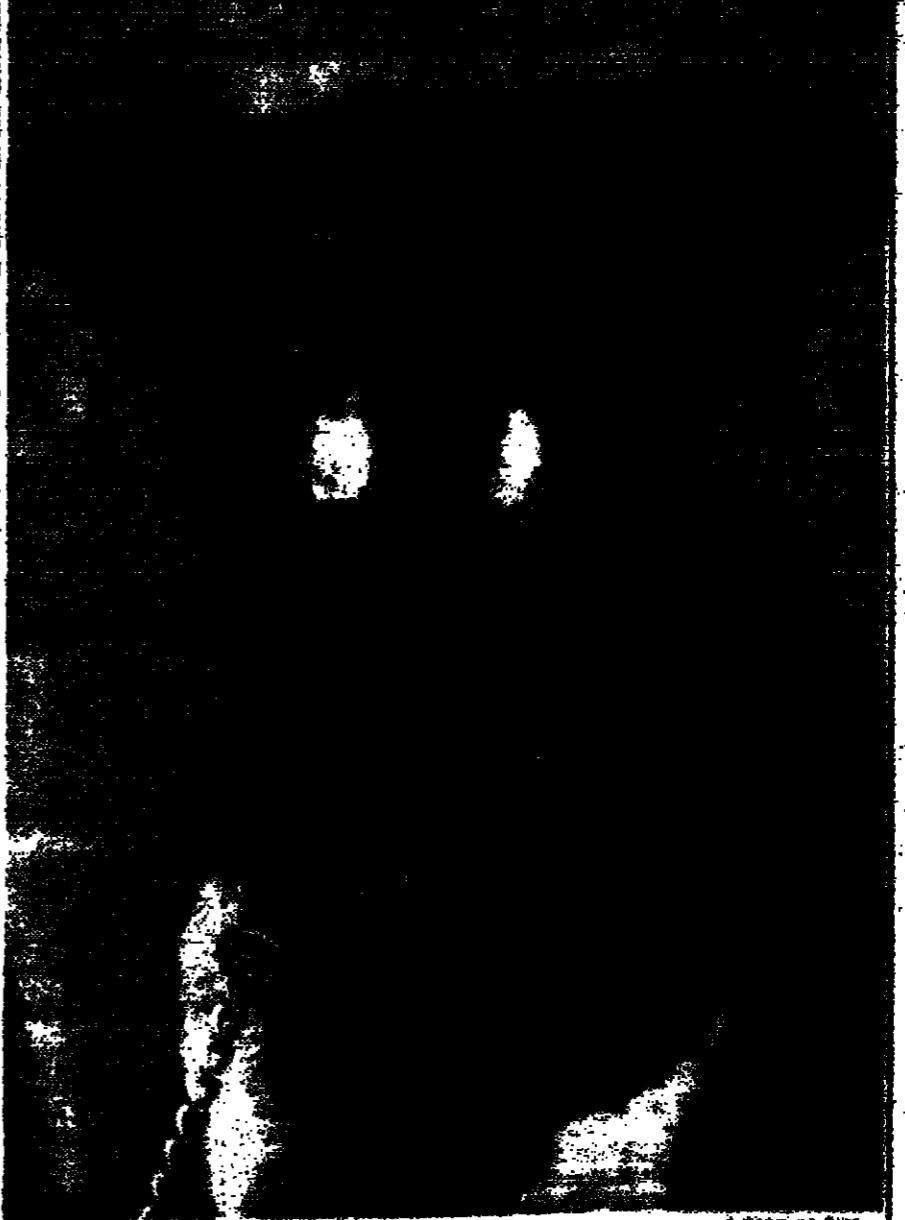
For each part of call, Dr. Moran plans an ambitious programme of maritime archaeological, zoological, ethnological, botanical and medical studies to make a comparison between Marco Polo's era and present times.



## In a word: Enterprise.

Further information from: The Secretariat, The Rolex Awards for Enterprise, PO Box 178, 1211 Geneva 26, Switzerland.

ROLEX  
of Geneva



These three dogs were photographed at an animal home last week. Sadly, they were not reclaimed or adopted and were put down as surplus.

**Today's vote on dog registration will come too late for these dogs.**

**They were among the 7000 dogs destroyed last week.**

**As the MPs file through the lobby today, we ask them to remember this:**

**If the vote goes against registration another 350,000 dogs will die this year.**

**Next year it may be more. How many dead dogs will it take to make us all act like human beings?**



The RSPCA estimates that 1000 unwanted dogs are put down every day by veterinary surgeons, animal welfare societies and local authorities. A dog registration scheme would help save their lives and save the country millions of pounds. Over 90% of the public support dog registration as do most concerned organisations, including the Police Federation, National Farmers Union, British Veterinary Association and the Association of District Councils. Similar schemes work abroad and economists say registration would work here, too. If you're an MP, please support it.

# Return to rating system backed by 35%, survey finds

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MORE than twice as many people support the idea of a local income tax to finance local government spending as support either the poll tax or Labour's idea of a tax on the capital value of a house.

When a MORI poll, commissioned by *The Times* last week, posed four alternatives, it found that 29 per cent of those questioned favoured a local income tax. Only 12 per cent backed the community charge, or poll tax, and only 15 per cent "a tax based on the market value of the house you live in" which is the essence of Labour's outline proposals for an alternative.

More than a third of those questioned, 35 per cent, preferred the old rating system to any of the other three alternatives. Now that Mrs Thatcher is committed to a full revision of the poll tax, these findings will give ministers considerable pause for thought. Half the middle classes would favour a local income tax although they would be the ones likely to be the hardest hit.

The Liberal Democrats, who have been languishing in the national opinion polls, but who tend to perform better in local government elections, are the only party advocating a local income tax, which was derided by Mrs Thatcher in the Commons 10 days ago.

The Liberal Democrats, who retain some 3,000 councillors in local government, make a better showing in a specific MORI poll of 1,212 people who live in the areas where local elections are being held this week. They have doubled their support from 5 per cent, in the first three months of the year, to 10 per cent.

It is the Labour Party, however, that will be most encouraged by the poll findings. In the areas contested Labour has a lead over the Conservatives of 28 per cent. The MORI poll within the areas measured support for the parties at Labour, 53 per cent; Conservatives, 25 per cent; Liberal Democrats, 10 per cent; Green Party, 5 per cent; Social Democratic Party, 3 per cent; Nationalists, 2 per cent and Others, 2 per cent.

A remarkable 53 per cent of those questioned said they were certain to vote on Thursday. The turn-out in local elections is usually in the mid-thirties. Intention to turn out is 10 points higher among those planning to support Labour, and it is higher in Scotland, where the Conservatives are lagging badly.

As for the community charge, the key issue, the news remains bleak for the Government and explains the fury of activity within the Cabinet to lessen its impact.

While ministers are talking

Which alternative policy would you most prefer for raising funds for local council services (%)?

	All	Con	Lab
Old rating system	35	37	46
Community charge/poll tax	12	30	3
Local income tax	15	13	18
None of these	29	30	28
Don't know	7	7	5
	3	4	2

On the whole, are you more inclined to blame the Government or the local council for the level of poll tax or community charge that people in this area will have to pay (%)?

	All	Con	Lab
Government	50	21	58
Council	22	51	15
Both equally	14	13	13
Don't know	7	8	4

## Poll tax 'most unpopular government legislation'

By Michael Hart

THE poll tax is the most unpopular piece of legislation passed by the Government. In the survey, only 23 per cent of adults approved of the change from domestic rates to the poll tax, and 72 per cent disapproved — a majority against the change of more than 3-1.

At the same time, voting intentions for Thursday's local elections gives Labour 53 per cent against the Conservatives' 25 per cent. If this is the outcome, the Conservatives will suffer their worst local government rout — in an election which has been dominated by the poll tax.

Only 18 per cent thought they would be better off under the poll tax, while 63 per cent thought they would suffer financially. These figures are almost certainly wrong, but it is nevertheless people's perceptions of how they will fare which matter to them.

The Conservative campaign is being conducted under the slogan "Conservative Councils Cost You Less". The survey suggests that this is a weak line — first, because far more people blame the Government for the level of poll tax than their local council (50 per cent to 29 per cent); and second, because, if almost two thirds think they will be worse off, they are likely to blame the Government for that.

There is almost no consolation for the Government in the poll's findings. When the community charge was proposed, there was to be a flat rate charge for each individual, irrespective of where they lived. After the last general election, 43 per cent supported this proposal and 39 opposed it. Now, only 23 per cent agree, and 65 per cent oppose.

The Government has abandoned the principle of a flat rate poll tax. There is, however, no other permutation which attracts significantly wider support. The principle

of the poll tax is unpopular, as well as its implementation.

When people were asked which method they would choose to raise funds for local council services, 35 per cent wanted to revert to the old rating system — the most popular option. A local income tax (proposed by the Liberal Democrats) attracted 29 per cent support, a tax based on the market value of a property (floated by the Labour Party) attracted 15 per cent, and the community charge received the support of just 12 per cent.

Unsurprisingly, Conservative voters were more inclined than Labour voters to prefer the poll tax, but even the Government's own supporters were equally divided between the poll tax and a local income tax (30 per cent).

Among Labour voters, 46 per cent advocated a return to the old rating system while 28 per cent opted for a local income tax. Only 16 per cent supported their own party's tax on the market value of a house. Although the poll tax is unpopular, no alternative commands majority support.

Since 1987, Labour's strength has increased most among 18-34-year-olds and it is this age group in which opposition to the poll tax runs most strongly. Forty-three per cent of those questioned said they would support a campaign of non-payment, although in the population as a whole only 8 per cent said they would not pay the tax.

When the Government introduced the community charge it claimed that the new method of taxation would make local government accountable and would cause greater participation in local elections.

In the last 10 years, turnout has hovered around 40 per cent, but in the survey 53 per cent said they were "absolutely

## Making waves on the leafy Thames

By Sheila Gunn  
Political Reporter

MR DAVID WILLIAMS took a few hours off from the local council election campaign last week to collect his insignia of the CBE from the Queen. The honour had been given for services to local government.

The timing is nice. The Liberal Democrat is defending his record as leader of Richmond upon Thames Borough Council for the past seven years in next week's elections. The neatly tended homes and gardens, spacious parades, community car parks and air of affluence in the borough present the epitome of a Tory stronghold. The constituents for miles around return Conservative MPs.

Yet everything in Richmond is upside down. While support for the Liberal Democrats nationally has slumped since the Alliance heyday, the party has 46 of the borough council's 52 seats. Anti-merger SDP members hold two seats, the Conservatives four, and Labour none.

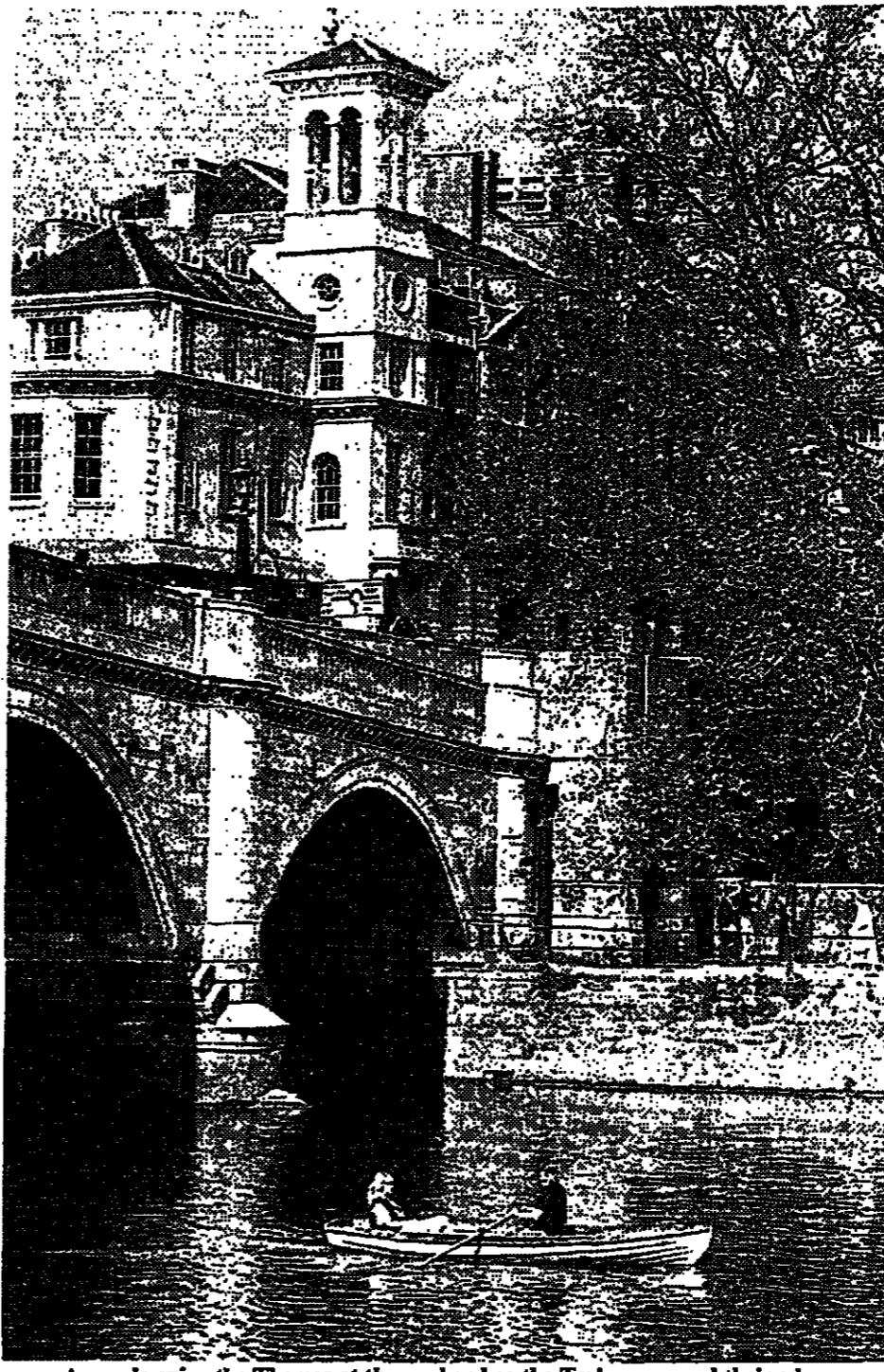
It is the showpiece of the 10 local authorities which the Liberal Democrats administer with majority control. While the party is fighting 1,000 fewer seats nationally, it remains confident of continuing its domination of the wards spreading outwards from the main artery of the Thames in Richmond, Barnes, Twickenham, Teddington, Hampton, Kew, Mortlake and East Sheen.

Labour might enjoy something of a honeymoon in opinion polls, but its chances of winning seats on the council are probably limited to hopes of regaining four former Labour wards. For the Conservatives, Richmond is a "targeted council". It is a stain on their record in southern England since they lost control seven years ago.

The party's resources have been focused on winning it back. At the launch of his party's campaign, the Conservative councillor Mr Nicholas True insisted: "This local election is not about the record of the Conservative Government or the number of children in need or the President of South Africa. It is about the record of the Liberal council that has been in power for seven years."

Tory canvassers, however, say they are being given a hard time by residents over the poll tax, health and education reforms and Mrs Thatcher's leadership. They hoped to find mileage in attacking alleged mismanagement by criticising, for instance, the £395 poll-tax, £44 above the Government's target. Mr Williams points out that the charge is lower than in the Tory-controlled Surrey districts.

The argument swings both ways for the Conservatives as the relatively low level, com-



A couple enjoy the Thames at the weekend as the Tories prepared their advance

pared to the high rates, might make a favourable impression on many voters. It undermines, however, accusations of wasteful bureaucracy by the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives' campaign agenda make a strong feature of the amount spent on publicity and public relations. Mr Williams counters by blaming high spending on the poll tax to residents and to promote his own "green" charter.

Tory candidates fighting all 52 seats are also focusing on a messy dispute over the demise of the borough's world-renowned ice rink next year. The council granted planning permission to developers to build an ice rink on the rink's east Twickenham site. It did so with an understanding of du-

## Tories accused on proxy voting

By Ray Clancy

BLIND and housebound elderly people have unwittingly signed away their votes in this week's local election in the London Borough of Havering, it was alleged yesterday.

Romford police are investigating the allegations after the council's returning officer found that 109 proxy votes, mostly pledged to Tory supporters, had been applied for in the Chase Cross Ward, where there are usually only a handful of such votes.

Liberal Democrat and Labour candidates in the ward claimed Conservative candidates had been visiting homes for the elderly, persuading them to agree to a proxy vote. The Conservatives said, however, that they had done nothing illegal, although they admit that some people might have become confused.

Proxy votes allow those who, because they are housebound, ill, on holiday or unable to get to the polling station on election day, to sign a document allowing someone else to vote on their behalf.

Mr Terry Hurstine, a Liberal Democrat candidate, said he had spoken to at least two dozen people, some of them infirm and blind, who had told him they had not realized what they were doing. Some had thought the Conservatives were offering them a lift to the polling station.

He found that two Tory candidates, Mr Andrew Rosindell and Mr Cyril North, had visited Hampden Lodge home and signed up 30 residents as proxy Conservative voters.

"Half of those residents are suffering from severe dementia and the warden refused to counter-sign the proxy vote forms for them."

Mr Rosindell said: "It is all quite within the law. No signatures have been forged, nobody was pushed into signing. They were asked if they wanted a proxy vote, some did and some didn't... I admit some of them might have been a bit confused."

Mr North denied the claim from other parties that most of the proxy votes had gone to elderly people. "Only a minority are elderly people. Very few of them are unhappy about us approaching them."

The local Labour party said last night it had begun its own investigation. "We feel there has been a possible breach of the Representation of the People Act," said Mr Stefan Koseda, a Labour candidate.

A spokesman for Havering council said it was willing to consider requests for cancellation of proxy votes.

## Official candidate fights true blue rival

By Kerry Gill

FOR the last 33 years, apart from a three-month hiccup seven years ago, Mr Len Thomson has served as an independent councillor in the Borders, his position virtually unassailable. Then, a few weeks ago, along came Mr David Hunter.

Mr Hunter represents the decision by the Scottish Conservative Party to challenge the historic stranglehold that independents have had on local government in this predominantly rural area.

While everyone knows that Mr Thomson votes Conservative and, indeed, has held office in the local constituency association, he has refused consistently to stand as a Tory, believing that party politics are anathema to Borders folk.

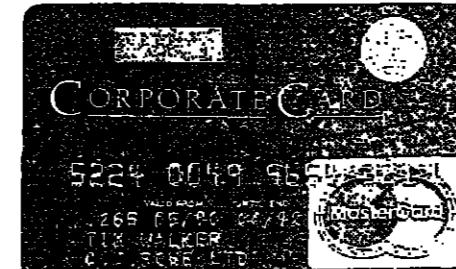
The Tories, however, tired of their own supporters refusing to disclose their true colours, decided to field their own candidates against the independents. Enter Mr Hunter, the Conservative candidate who is determined to wrest the Forest ward on Borders Regional Council from his erstwhile colleague.

In 1986, the independents enjoyed a majority of 11 seats, but that has been cut to seven although three other "no ticket" members have continued to support them.

Mr Thomson, aged 74, was approached three months ago by the Tories, who asked him to stand for them. "I said, 'Just carry on and oppose me, I am standing as a no ticket'. There is absolutely no need for party politics here. I have seen how it works in Strathclyde and Lothian, all the bitter wrangling and de-selection if you don't follow the party line, but the Borderers would not have it," the former Provost of Selkirk said.

"I have had phone calls from all over the Borders from leading Conservatives saying how much they disapprove of this kind of action. The Conservatives are only doing this to boost the number of votes they get nationally, they do not seriously believe they will ever win the Borders."

# WORLD LEADERS COMBINE FORCES



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# Rules on religion lead to rethink on broadcasting Bill

By John Lewis, Political Staff

THE Government is considering late changes to the Broadcasting Bill after discovering that the rules on religious broadcasting could stop the Church of England broadcasting its normal services.

Mr David Mellor, the minister responsible for broadcasting, is discussing amendments to the consumer protection clauses of the Bill, drawn up tightly to prevent a Moonie-type invasion of television. He is being pressed by some MPs to relax the rules so that the "Moonies" and other religious groups can broadcast as well, if they wish to do so.

The Bill says nothing in the programmes of new franchise-holders after 1992 must offend against good taste and decency or incite to crime or disorder. It also says undue prominence must not be given to the views and opinions of particular people or bodies on religious matters and that the programme should not carry views and opinions of the broadcasters on religious matters.

The fear is that this could stop the Church of England conducting its own services and could limit other pro-

grammes. Mr Mellor has made concessions to the religious lobby, led by Mr Michael Alison, a former minister and parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister, who speaks for the Church Commissioners.

An amendment at the report stage of the Bill, expected in the second week in May, will require the new channel three and five companies to provide religious content in their schedules. Religious organisations would also be able to have their own local radio and television stations on non-DBS satellite, such as Sky from outside Britain and not licensed by the Independent Television Commission.

Mr Mellor said: "We have to decide whether the no-editing and no giving undue prominence arrangement provide a sufficient amount of flexibility for religious organisations to pursue properly mainstream broadcasting and whether we need to make some changes."

The question is whether it is too restrictive by applying that to television. We want to strike a balance of not having Moonie television, but on the

Valuing truth, page 16

other hand, not having non-editing restrictions which stop a local church having a radio station."

Mr Mellor added: "It would be ludicrous — and I don't think it would happen — if the restriction meant that the Church of England could not put on its own service. We are determined not to have American-type religious people over here, but I am looking again at the detail to see if we have the precise formulation right."

Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, who has campaigned for religious programmes, said last night she was pressing for a general relaxation. "There is a great deal of concern among Christians that this Bill, which they expected to provide greater freedom on the airwaves for religion will, if anything, be more restrictive."

Ministers had been particularly alarmed about the way in which credulous viewers in the US have been persuaded to part with large sums of money to subsequently discredited religious groups.

Veterans of the 1942-1945 Burma campaign from all over the world who took part in the London yesterday included Mr Jack Hibberd, from Southampton, Hampshire (left) and Mr Jim Cowan, of Dickson, Tennessee.

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JEP 1990

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# Summit steps up the pace of European political unity

From Michael Bhayya, Dublin

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers will this week begin drawing up the report they are to present to the next Dublin summit, setting out what is meant by European political union and detailing the changes needed in the Treaty of Rome to achieve it.

In just two short months they must list all the options open to the Community, how the defence and foreign policies of the Twelve should be co-ordinated, how the powers of the Brussels Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers should be altered – and how the rhetoric should be translated into reality.

In theory, their report will be the basis for a decision at the end of the Irish presidency on whether and when to call an inter-governmental conference. In fact, however, the leaders of the Twelve on Saturday pre-empted the decision.

As Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister and host of the special summit, announced afterwards, the convening of a conference is now a foregone conclusion. It will open in December and run in parallel with the conference on Economic and Monetary Union.

Under the accelerated timetable also agreed here, both conferences are to end within about a year, so that new treaties can be ratified in 1992 which will set the Community on an irrevocable course to economic and political union from the beginning of 1993.

Afterwards the leaders all agreed that the atmosphere at the summit was unusually cordial. Mrs Thatcher was determinedly conciliatory in her manner, and both M Jacques Delors, the Commission President, and Mr Haughey, old antagonists of Britain's, went out of their way to find points of agreement with her. Such was the harmony that the meeting finished almost an hour ahead of schedule.

Several participants said they thought Mrs Thatcher provided a healthy questioning of some of the more airy-

M Delors: "Adam would not have been created"

Other leaders were equally



Happy family: Mrs Thatcher with other EC leaders after Saturday's summit in Dublin, at which an unusual degree of harmony prevailed

far-fetched, and her stance seemed to foreshadow the problems that must be solved if closer political integration is to make progress.

Mrs Thatcher herself made no secret of her scepticism at a press conference after the summit. "The trouble is, there is quite a lot of rhetoric and far too little nitty-gritty, and I hope the foreign ministers get down to the nitty-gritty and come up with something which does improve the European institutions, which does look and see if we need any modification and see if that modification needs a treaty reform."

Acknowledging her defeat

with good grace, she did not,

however, doubt that there

would be a treaty change.

Britain's job was now to

define what political union

means, since each member

– including France and West

Germany, its proponents

– had a different interpretation.

It did not mean a unitary

European state, she insisted.

There must be a loss of

national institutions, no cen-

tralisation of power in Eu-

rope. Separate identity – "our

greatest strength" – must not

disappear just as East Euro-

pean countries are struggling

to establish theirs.

The constitutional position

of the EC's six monarchs and

six presidents would not be

changed, she said. National

parliaments would not be

suppressed, nor existing legal

and electoral systems aban-

doned. No country had any

intention of giving up national

sovereignty and its ultimate

right to decide on war and

peace.

Claiming that her concerns

were echoed by other leaders,

Mrs Thatcher persuaded Mr

Haughey to agree that all these

matters were "off limits".

Only M Delors, who came

down on her side in urging

caution and rejecting loose

talk of instant political union,

backed at her list of negatives.

"If I tried to define all the

things a man is not, I don't

think Adam would have been

created," he said. To which

the Prime Minister retorted:

"God did do better on his

second thoughts when he cre-

ated Eve."

Mrs Thatcher, clearly in

high spirits, did not challenge

or denounce the commitment of

her colleagues to political

unity.

She said she had put her

points across, and called the

conclusions satisfactory. She

was particularly pleased that

the Twelve, not including

neutral Ireland, had re-

affirmed their support for

Nato and a unified Germany's

place in it.

Mr Delors' "Adam would

not have been created"

Other leaders were equally

## Dublin welcome for democracy

THE European Council expresses its deep satisfaction at developments in Central and Eastern Europe since the Strasbourg European Council. It applauds the continuing process of change in these countries with whose peoples we share a common heritage and culture. This process of change brings ever closer a Europe which, having overcome the unnatural divisions imposed on it by ideology and confrontation, stands united in its commitment to democracy, pluralism, the rule of law, full respect for human rights and the principles of the market economy.

The European Council welcomes German unification in particular the holding of free elections in the German Democratic Republic and Hungary and looks forward to similar developments in the other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The European Council is satisfied that this integration will contribute to faster economic growth in the Community and agrees that it will take place in conditions of economic balance and monetary stability.

The integration will become effective as soon as unification is legally established, subject to the necessary transitional arrangements. It will be carried out without a revision of the treaties.

During the period prior to unification the Federal Government will keep the Community fully informed of any relevant measures discussed and agreed between the authorities of the two Germanies for the purpose of aligning their policies and their legislation. Furthermore, the Commission will be fully involved with these discussions.

The movement to restore freedom and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and the progress already made, and in prospect, in arms negotiations, now make it both possible and necessary to develop a wider framework of peace, security and co-operation.

The European Council agrees that the action within the framework of G-24 should be extended to the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. The Community will work actively for the adoption of an action frame. (Reuter)

The EC final statement released in Dublin at the weekend runs to more than 4,000 words. Extracts relevant to EC political union, German unity, European security and aid to Eastern Europe appear here in full

then, decisive steps should be taken towards European unity and its member states will play a leading role in all proceedings and discussions within the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) process and in efforts to establish new political structures or agreements based on the principles of the Helsinki Final Act while maintaining existing security arrangements which member states have.

We are pleased that German unification is taking place under a European roof. The Community will ensure that the integration of the territory of the GDR into the Community is accomplished in a smooth and harmonious way.

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## Eavesdroppers get a buzz from tapping into phone calls

From Charles Bremer  
New York

THE next time you see someone at the bus-stop wearing earphones and a far-away look, do not assume that music is the source of entertainment. He or she may be enjoying the latest of American hobbies – eavesdropping on telephone calls.

Now that nearly four million Americans use mobile phones and countless more homes boast cordless sets, the air is thick with talk, much of it boring but some of it juicy enough for whiling away idle hours, according to amateurs of this new pastime.

Estimates vary, but according to Mr Bob Grove, the publisher of the

monthly *Monitoring Times*, the bible of these vicious thrill seekers, somewhere between 10 and 20 million people are tuning in to other people's gossip with the help of simple and widely available "scanning" receivers.

"You can say these people are voyeurs if you want," Mr Grove said, over a secure line from his base in North Carolina. "But it's human nature. Suppose you are sitting in a restaurant and you hear someone at the next table say 'Peggy's pregnant but we don't know who the father is', then it's only natural curiosity to want to listen a bit more."

To help out, Mr Grove's company also sells the necessary equip-

ment and books such as *Tune in on Telephone Calls* to help out the neophyte. There is a catch, but it does not annoy Mr Grove too much. Under a 1986 law, it is illegal to listen to cellular-telephone calls, though not to the far shorter-range transmissions from simple cordless sets. These carry only a few hundred yards compared with up to 50 miles for cellular equipment.

The law, say the enthusiasts, represents an unconstitutional infringement to their listening rights and is, anyway, unworkable.

"Nobody asks these transmis-

sions to come into their radios, to enter their homes," Mr Grove says indignantly. No one has yet been prosecuted for the offence. Unlike Britain, where it is illegal to monitor police frequencies, there is no bar to listening to any radio transmissions in the United States, except the cellular frequencies.

Critics of the boozing cell-phone industry say the companies fail to warn customers that eavesdropping is possible. In 1987, a survey in California found that 60 per cent of cellular users were unaware that their conversations could be intercepted.

The industry insists that the technology makes it nearly impos-

ible to listen for any length of time to any one call. This complexity has, for example, prevented police from making use of cellular talk among drug dealers. But the enthusiasts say the random snatches of conversation are part of the fun.

Mr David Murphy of Boston, an accountant who commutes to work while listening on earphones, says: "It's amazing what you can hear. I've heard my wife, I've heard stock tips, even people talking about sex. I heard a guy call his home and say 'Honey, I'm going to be late'. He hangs up and a second later he calls his girlfriend and says, 'Honey, I'll be right over'."

Mr Murphy's remarks, reported in a local newspaper this month, brought public calls for action to halt the hobby.

As anyone knows who crosses lines with other users in the jam-

## Flames cast pall over the slums of Delhi

From Christopher Thomas  
Delhi

IN A fortnight of fires 50,000 Delhi slum-dwellers have been driven out of their wretched tinder-box huts – the victims, as often as not, of the politics of slum life.

More than 11,000 *jhuggis* (huts) have been destroyed, leaving a desperate army of homeless people sleeping amid the devastation of what used to be slums as home. Black plumes of smoke crept across the Delhi sky over the weekend as the incendiary madness continued.

Last Monday 2,000 *jhuggis* were gutted and 10 people died; on Tuesday another 4,000 were destroyed in three separate fires; on Wednesday 1,200 were burnt. The Delhi fire brigade, which boasts a fleet of 160 fire engines in this city of seven million people, often had to let them burn.

Where dwellers are at the mercy of pestilence, fire and government steamrollers. Newspapers often carry photographs of men and women, surrounded by ragged children, picking through the crushed wreckage of their possessions in the wake of an official demolition squad.

*Jhuggis* – made of tin, mud, bits of brick, cardboard and canvas – continue to spread over vast areas of Delhi. There are 250,000 slum-dwellers in the capital. Two important government buildings have also been damaged in fires, revealing fire safety laws for the farce they are. The Government admitted to Parliament that 138 multi-storey buildings in Delhi lacked basic facilities to prevent or fight fires.

Vigyan Bhawan, the Indian Government's main conference centre, was all but destroyed in a fire. And no wonder: it had a combustible false ceiling; its walls were covered in wood paneling, and seating was flammable.

The *jhuggi* fires are the result of both accidents and malice – mostly the latter. Accidents are usually due to illegal power connections, which are controlled by *jhuggi* bosses who bribe officials from the power company and then charge slum-dwellers for a "hook-up".

Four men have been arrested for deliberately starting one fire that destroyed several thousand *jhuggis* in the hope of getting meagre government compensation that is sometimes paid after big disasters. This is one of the main motives for slum fires.

There are other causes, too, involving crooked politicians and bureaucrats who administer parcels of public land as though it were their own. When they want to clear *jhuggi*-covered property to pursue a more lucrative proposition, there is nothing cheaper, quicker or more effective than a fire.

## Deputy fills breach after Bogotá killing

Bogotá

THE left-wing Colombian movement M 19 buried its assassinated leader, presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro, on Saturday and named a new candidate for elections on May 27.

About 20,000 people es-

corted Pizarro's coffin on a

seven-hour march through

the capital to the cemetery, chanting "Carlos, our friend, the people are with you", and "I did my duty for Colombia and they killed me".

Pizarro, aged 38, a guerrilla

leader who transformed





# Reform gains pace in enclave of Stalinism

DESPITE 40 years of Stalinism and a material backwardness which is the most serious in Europe, the Albanians have preserved the hospitable traditions which Byron, Edith Durham and, during the Second World War, the pick of the Special Operations Executive found winning.

When a foreigner enters an Albanian home, no easy matter given the controlled nature of society here, he is nothing less than a sacred guest. When he leaves, he will carry greetings, not only to his country, but also to his parents; if there is a garden, his patriarchal host will give him a rose, symbol of the hope that he will return one day.

Unfortunately, the new order superimposes other conditions. His host will be questioned closely by "neighbours" who have a habit of dropping in a few minutes after the foreigner has arrived. Attempts to renew contact by telephone are invariably fruitless. As the Albanian lorry drivers, who regularly travel by Italian ship to Trieste to pick up Danish refrigerators know all too well, the eyes of the *sizunë* (secret police), all-seeing.

On board the ships of the Venice-based Adriatic Line, their agents masquerade as engineering students, fashionably dressed in white socks. Only when the ship reaches Durres, on the Albanian coast, do they give themselves away by producing two-way radios.

In Tirana, officials claim that, unlike the detested Romanian Securitate, the *sizunë* are "not military caste", but "part of the people". But in a country where poverty is still widespread and where many have access to Italian, Yugoslav and Greek television programmes, resentment towards a privileged élite appears to be growing.

The faces which greet official cars in villages betray little respect. Even conscripts look with hostility on the Tirana limousines of VIPs.

However, unlike Romania's Ceausescu, Mr Ramiz Alia, the Albanian leader, enjoys widespread respect. In particular, young Albanians who have few good words for communism can be heard pinning their hopes on his apparently sincere commitment to reform.

Unfortunately, the reforms announced by Mr Alia last week after the tenth plenum of the ruling Central Committee are unlikely to be enough for the younger generation.

Mr Alia is clearly under pressure from two directions

Change is in the air in Albania and, with it, the first public signs of discontent. Richard Bassett reports from the capital, Tirana

to change the existing structures. A generation of university students, having watched on Italian TV the events of last winter in Eastern Europe, is demanding democracy. There are many reports from Albanians of demonstrations in Kavaje and in Shkoder.

Small bombs have been hurled at Stalin's bust in Tirana and the late communist leader Enver Hoxha's bookshop in Tirana. The founder of modern Stalinist Albania worked before the war, is a particularly vulnerable monument. For the past two weeks, plain-clothed policemen have mounted an honour guard opposite its crumbling facade.

Most critical for Mr Alia, however, is the pressure for economic reform from a new generation of technocrats within the ruling élite. They are mostly sons of former communists, from families which remain powerbrokers.

They are well-educated and have enjoyed the opportunity of travel abroad. To the alarm of an older generation here, they view with increasing anxiety the backward state of their country. They are above all Albanian patriots.

To this end, Mr Alia called during the plenum for the re-establishing of diplomatic relations with the superpowers. Albania is also keen to resume links with Britain and negotiate a resolution to the Corfu Channel incident. Albanian gold reserves were blocked by Britain in retaliation for Tirana's refusal to accept responsibility for the incident in 1946.

France and Italy have long-established embassies. The Albanian people were "never religious". This year Easter

was celebrated in some villages by old priests.

According to a French diplomat in Tirana, in one village near Elbasan, an Orthodox priest helped celebrate a service. Three of his fingers had been cut off by the Communists in the 1950s.

Greek and Italian embassies are regularly besieged by would-be refugees. One Albanian family has been living in the Italian Embassy for several years, unable to leave with any guarantee of safety. The Greek Embassy has had to cope with people who clamber through the barbed-wire fence and sneak past sentries to seek political asylum.

Mr Alia and his closest colleagues know that, without serious reforms, discontent cannot be controlled much longer. But in attempting to grant concessions, he appears hampered by the legacy of Hoxha, whose apparatus, rumoured to be well-organized by his widow, is unwilling to share power and embrace change.

The apparatus is particularly strongly represented in the interior and foreign ministries, though its influence seems to be waning in the younger Economics Ministry. But it still wields tremendous influence over lives of Albanians, and foreigners lucky enough to receive an official invitation to the country.

Last week it appeared that elements within the apparatus were so opposed to the reforms that they were even prepared to attempt to suppress news of Mr Alia's speech after the plenum to foreigners visiting Tirana.

The younger generation is increasingly irritated by this refusal to change old methods of dealing with foreigners. To the visible horror of the older generation, many of these young technocrats are also supporters of religion, and refuse, even in public, to state the official line, that the Albanian people were "never religious".

Despite the sale of millions of copies of Hoxha's *The Anglo-American Threat*, a tale of "wicked, chocolate-munching" British cavalry officers bent on subverting Albanian democracy, the Albanians regard the British with the deepest respect. In the language of present day Albania no one says Britain is a "democratic" country, but rather that it is "one of the most developed" countries in the world. This is the highest compliment Albanians can give. They hope that it will not be too long before their land, too, becomes a "developed" country.



Sympathizers of a Cracow political cabaret holding effigies of former Soviet Presidents Stalin, Brezhnev and Krushchev, parodying a May 1 march outside the former Communist Party Central Committee HQ in Warsaw

## Thousands protest in Romania

Timisoara

THOUSANDS of demonstrators staged anti-government rallies in at least four Romanian towns yesterday to demand the sacking of Mr Ion Iliescu, the interim President.

About 15,000 people in the Western city of Timisoara, birthplace of the December uprising which toppled Nicolae Ceausescu, the executed dictator, denounced Mr Iliescu and his ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) as neo-communists.

Protests have increased over the past week in advance of the country's first free elections for more than half a century, on May 20, in which Mr Iliescu is the front's presidential candidate.

Demonstrators jammed the ornate Opera Square in the shadow of the towering cathedral chanting "Down with

Iliescu" and "NSF is another name for the Romanian Communist Party".

Mr George Serban, a leader of Timisoara's main opposition group, told the cheering crowd: "If the former nomenklatura (Communist Party establishment) holds on to power, then there was no revolution in Romania. Then it was merely a popular revolt followed by a coup."

Posters reading "Down with Iliescu", "Iliescu, another Ceausescu", "Iliescu KGB" and "Down with the Securitate" were brandished by the crowd. They also waved banners saying: "We don't want communism with a human face", and "The NSF is an offspring of communism".

Mrs Doina Cornea, a dissident of long standing under the old régime, was given an ovation when she spoke up in

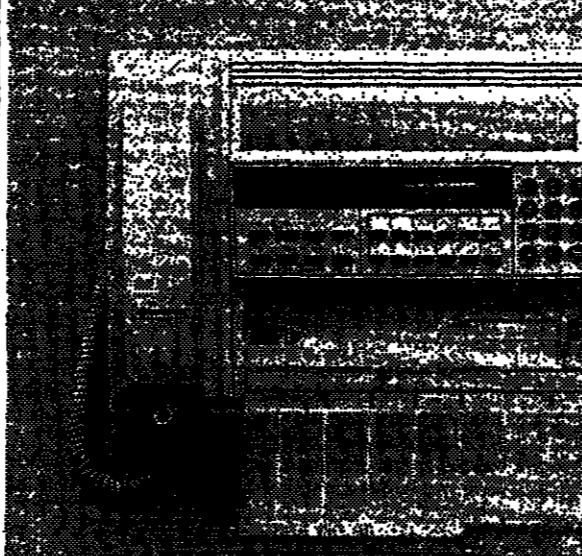
support of anti-government demonstrators in Bucharest and called for the fight against communism to continue.

The crowd also applauded speakers from the new National Alliance of the Timisoara Declaration, which was set up on Saturday, and Mr Nica Leon, the National Liberal Party chairman.

At Constanta, Romania's main Black Sea port, thousands of anti-government demonstrators and Front supporters shouted insults at each other.

In the Transylvanian town of Cluj, rival demonstrators fought each other but there were no reports of violence. Demonstrators in Bucharest, who have massed in the central University Square for eight days, hung up a banner proclaiming "Neo-communist-free zone of Romania". (Reuters, AFP)

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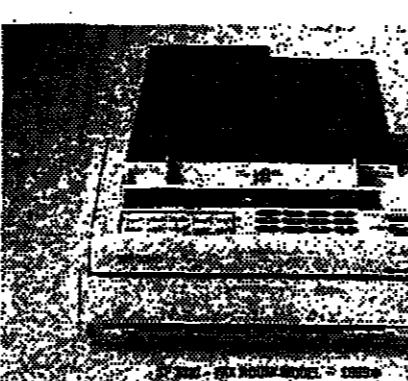
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## Moscow joins in condemning US

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

TOP-level Soviet-Syrian talks here at the weekend brought a strong condemnation of US policy in the Middle East, but no agreement by Moscow to curb the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

After four hours of what seemed at times to have been stormy talks, Tass and President Gorbachov and President Assad of Syria had agreed US policy in the Middle East was "even worse than that of the previous Administration". As a result, "Israeli leaders have no incentive to search for a real way out of the deadlock. Their actions are aggressive."

This is the strongest criticism of the United States

## Castro is challenged by Reagan

Miami

IN HIS first live Radio Marti broadcast to Cuba, Mr Ronald Reagan, the former US President, called on President Castro to acknowledge the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe and Latin America and schedule free elections in Cuba.

"The call for free elections in Cuba is growing with an irresistible momentum," Mr Reagan said on Saturday, referring to political changes in Poland, East Germany, Nicaragua and other nations. "Test yourself in a vote, Mr Castro. Let the voices of the Cuban people be heard."

Mr Reagan, addressing 7,000 people, mostly Cuban-Americans, at a rally at Miami's Orange Bowl football stadium sponsored by the Cuban-American National Foundation, was presented with a pair of white boxer shorts in recognition of his role as "world champion" in the fight against communism.

Mr Reagan's remarks were broadcast live for the first time to Cuba by the US-based Radio Marti. The station, created under Mr Reagan in 1985, is aimed at Cuba, just 90 miles off Florida. (Reuters)

## Second jail protest in France

Lille — Inmates held a rooftop protest at a jail in the northern French town of Douai yesterday, hours after a similar demonstration ended at a prison 40 miles away.

Police said 50 prisoners refused to return to their cells after exercise. (Reuters)

## Calm returns

Kathmandu — Nepalese police, who stopped work after mobs killed eight colleagues, have resumed work as heavy rains and a strict curfew restored calm after weeks of often-violent pro-democracy protests. (Reuters)

## Somali floods

Mogadishu — Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated after heavy flooding in the normally arid southern Somalia area, where scores of villages have been submerged or isolated. (Reuters)

## Change of tack

Tehran — The Khmer Rouge is shifting its strategy from terror to propaganda to try to gain a strong rural foothold in advance of possible elections. Cambodian officials and diplomats said here. (AP)

## Briton honoured

Tokyo — Japan has announced the 4,495 recipients of its annual spring awards. Among 23 foreigners cited is Mr Julian Ridsdale, head of the Britain-Japan Parliamentary Union. (AP)

## Party disbands

Helsinki — Finland's Communist Party, founded 72 years ago, has been disbanded and replaced by the Left-Wing Union in an attempt to save the socialist movement. (AP)

## Exit ban

Jammu, India — The Government has banned residents of Kashmir from leaving the disputed region, which is torn by a violent Muslim separatist revolt. (Reuters)

# Thatcher calls their bluff

**Conor Cruise O'Brien sees no substance in the Paris-Bonn enthusiasm for Euro unity**

Mrs Thatcher's political troubles are manifold and grave, but surely the least among them is her supposed isolation over a hypothetical entity going by the name of European political unity. It is true that she does not want to give up the sovereignty of her country. But no European leader wants to make such a concession; no European country is prepared for anything of the kind. This should become apparent when the foreign ministers report on the six-week study period ordered by the weekend Dublin summit.

The illusion of an impending United States of Europe - Chancellor Kohl's phrase - has been engendered by the French and German governments for reasons which are quite different but capable of being expressed, for the moment, in terms of a joint aspiration towards European political unity.

On the German side, to appear to take the lead in a supposed surge towards European unity meets the needs of the real surge, which is towards German unity. The notion of European unity is used to put to rest the nagging fears which the notion of a united Germany arouses in the bosoms of other Europeans. Herr Kohl believes such fears are groundless, for this united Germany will be part of a United States of Europe: no more of a menace to other European states than the state of Pennsylvania is to Delaware.

The French have different reasons for being enthusiastic about European unity. They see it as a means of keeping a united Germany under control. Their politicians and diplomats have long believed themselves to be exerting some kind of control over West Germany through the institutions of the Community. That control now needs to be strengthened so that an enlarged Germany can still be securely "enclosed".

The French have a pertinent metaphor about a horse. French officials like to explain - to non-Germans - the concept that is, in their view, central to the working of the Community. This is the concept of a "partnership between horse and rider". The horse is German economic strength; the rider is French political intelligence. As it happens, the physical appearance of the present leaders of the two nations embodies this metaphor, with Herr Kohl easily perceived as the massive, portentous horse, and M. Mitterrand the crafty little jockey.

To those of us who are not French, the idea of France being in a position of control over West Germany and about to extend that control over a united Germany may not seem very plausible. But to the French it is congenial, and therefore credible. They find the idea of European political unity acceptable, not because they have

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

The cost of the Strangeways riot has been variously estimated at sums between £6 million and £20 million. This "investment" (to use the term preferred by forward-thinking people for public-sector subventions) will be made by the taxpayer. So it was as a shareholder, so to speak, that I studied the newspaper picture of one of the prisoners who have triggered this investment. A glance at his face did not encourage confidence that such of his life as remains to be lived is likely to justify so much expenditure. The thought occurred that the project ought to be scrapped.

And was banished. The thought occurs often and is always banished, for I am not a fascist, merely a suppressed fascist like everyone else.

I first faced this problem as an MP. Of my 100,000 constituents, I estimate that 99,950 generated 1 per cent of the constituency work. This was not because they had no problems, but because they were disposed to sort them out for themselves. This meant that when they did judge that their MP should assist, their request for help was realistic and could be handled with dispatch.

That left 50 constituents, who caused 99 per cent of my work. The lady who refused to accept that her rising damp was not the government's fault; the man who insisted that the Derbyshire Constabulary should fetch somebody from Tanzania; the woman who just kept getting drunk and into new debt every time she was bailed out of her existing debt...

My constituency surgeries were crowded, but always with the same people. And of course the buck they passed did not stop on my desk, or my secretary's (its next stop). On their behalf copious correspondence flowed to and from cabinet ministers, councillors, chief constables and directors of housing. And the buck did not stop with them, either. Memos and phone calls surged between their mahogany desks and the humbler counters of junior clerks, local housing officers, police constables and social workers... all in the cause of the famous Fifty.

The total cost of their calls upon the state and its agents probably ran into millions of pounds every year, and you may think it cheaper just to have given them the money. But poverty was not the cause of their problems, though for many it was the result.

Mental instability was their problem. They were crackers.

Quite a few people are. Typically, it would take me six months' or a year's work in each case to realize this. Patiently, one would find practical solutions to one problem after another. Gradually the conviction grew that it could not be purely coincidence that all these problems were happening to the same person. It was not.

I have a plan for these people. Once identified, they should be briefly immersed in a harmless but permanent green dye. For the rest of their lives, we shall be able to see them coming.

Then there are the delinquents. I consider it a criminal's moral duty to society to escape detection, because the police and legal costs of bringing him to trial are immense, he is unlikely to be convicted, and if he is, he is never persuaded not to offend again. Of the small minority who are caught, most are patently inadequate and a few actually want to be caught.

About 40 taxpayers are working full-time to meet the running costs of each. The cost of steering one persistent offender from cradle, through borstals, courts and jails to grave would run a small cruise-liner. The literature generated - crime reports, summonses, briefs, social reports, prison records - would rival *War and Peace*.

By shrinking 1 per cent of the population, we could probably cut state spending by as much as three-quarters while maintaining services for the remaining 99 per cent. But how? There will be cases of mistaken identity and wrongful conviction, and there is always the chance that a character may be reformed. About one in a thousand is.

Perhaps they should be snap-frozen, and stored. Can medical science do this, yet? Future ages may see a breakthrough in techniques of rehabilitation. Future ages might be able to deal with them, either. Memos and phone calls surged between their mahogany desks and the humbler counters of junior clerks, local housing officers, police constables and social workers... all in the cause of the famous Fifty.

**Richard Morrison asks if the Royal Opera House's ever-increasing deficit can be justified**

# A malignant growth at the Garden

Two weeks ago, Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, announced that he expected its deficit to rise from about £3 million now to more than £5 million next year. To some, this breathtaking acknowledgement of an ever-increasing debt seemed to have the tacit approval of the Arts Council, even of the Minister for the Arts, Richard Luce.

Only a month before, Mr Luce had proposed that the funding of nearly all performing companies should be devoted to regional arts boards, leaving a number of "flagship" national companies in the Arts Council's care. The Royal Opera House, which receives a £1.5 million annual public subsidy, will be one. So it was reasonable to believe that in budgeting for a £5 million deficit, it was confident that direct funding would bail it out. In short, Covent Garden has folded because the Arts Council said its plane were unreliable.

Of its nature, the Franco-German alliance on European political unity cannot have a long life. Its maximum duration will be the same as that of the "two-plus-four" talks on German unity. Once those talks have resulted in agreement, the usefulness of European political unity as a topic of conversation will be at an end as far as Germany is concerned. And then the clever jockey in the tricolour silks will find that he is riding for a fall.

In the meantime, the British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, should not find the discussions of the foreign ministers on political unity too difficult. Nobody really wants a United States of Europe. Even Herr Kohl has no intention of allowing his own office to dwindle to that of a state governor under a European president possessing powers, authority and prestige similar to those of the president of the United States of America.

At the meetings of the foreign ministers, any proposals from the German side are likely to be cosmetic, corresponding to the essentially cosmetic nature of the whole exercise from a German point of view. As for the French, it will tax even the celebrated ingenuity of their diplomats to come up with the formulae they need, which is one that will leave French sovereignty intact while tying down the Germans.

By requiring the foreign ministers to examine the question and report back, Mrs Thatcher has called the Franco-German bluff over political unity and has put Mr Hurd in a strong position. When Mrs Thatcher said "no political unity", she meant what she said. But when President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl said "political unity", they meant a lot less than what they appeared to be saying. Just how much less will emerge from the meetings of the foreign ministers.

I expect there will be some tinkering with the European Parliament to make it look a little bit less of a nonsense than it is at present, but any extension of the powers of the European Parliament is likely to be at the expense of the Commission, rather than of national parliaments. Mr Hurd will have little difficulty in fending off threats to the British crown and parliament.

In fact, he should have quite an enjoyable time.

is confounded by a revelation made on Friday. Peter Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, has written to Lord Sainsbury, chairman of the Royal Opera House, expressing alarm at a deficit budget of this magnitude. Taxpayers, writes Mr Palumbo, will not invest in a company "determined... to spend its way into deficit". His line is consistent; already this season Kent Opera has folded because the Arts Council said its plane were unreliable.

The Royal Opera House is in danger of pleasing no one. Next season its top ticket prices will exceed £100, and nowhere can a seat with a good view be described as cheap. Opera and ballet lovers without access to tickets bought by firms as executive perks are being hit hard. Even these prices, however, represent a public subsidy of nearly £30 a seat. Now the taxpayers - 90 per cent of whom have no intention of going inside an opera house - are told that even this subsidy is not enough to avoid a walloping deficit.

Jeremy Isaacs' initial response

to Palumbo's letter was unwise: "The entire cost of the [Royal Opera] season probably amounts to less than the Metropolitan Opera House in New York will spend on a single production." It is an unfortunate comparison, since only 2 per cent of the Met's revenue comes from public subsidy, while the equivalent figure for Covent Garden is 44 per cent.

Many problems have clouded Isaacs' directorship at Covent Garden. The Royal Ballet may dispute earlier this year uncovered considerable antagonism between the opera and dance companies which share the building. The Royal Opera House development project has become embroiled in a thicket of planning applications, and no alternative home has yet been found for the three years from 1992 when Covent Garden is closed for building work.

Most irksome to Isaacs, however, must be the artistic comparisons being made between the Royal Opera's erratic production standards and those of English National Opera. These comparisons undermine Covent Garden's status as a "centre of excellence", and so jeopardize its case for £1.5 million of subsidy. Does Britain want a superleague opera house? If so, are we prepared to subsidize 70 per cent or more of the cost, as happens in Milan, Paris, Vienna and elsewhere? Or should Covent Garden follow Glyndebourne's policy, renounce subsidy, push seat prices higher still and hope that corporate patrons and Japanese tourists will pick up the bill?

And are the seasons too long? Covent Garden has around 450 performances each year, compared with 125 at La Scala. Yet Milan's opera-lovers probably outnumber London's by 10 to one.

The debate about these questions should not obscure one important principle. No company so reliant on public subsidy should be allowed to budget for a £5 million deficit. In effect, the Royal Opera House is allocating itself government funds that the government has not yet said it can have. That is not only high-handed, it is morally dubious.

# Splendid opening for the merchants of disaster

**Bernard Levin finds a link between the Channel Tunnel and the City's latest financial fiasco**

It is getting harder and harder to exaggerate, and considering that I have built my illustrious career almost entirely on a foundation of hyperbole, I am understandably becoming nervous. I would be obliged, therefore, if everybody would kindly calm down, to enable me to go on multiplying by the number I first directed.

This pica is directed in particular to the hapless shovellers trying to build a Channel Tunnel. When I last wrote about this monstrous superfluity, I did some ridiculous extrapolations concerning the cost, the makers were claiming that they would now not need any more money, and I sprinkled noughts about with a liberal hand, trying to demonstrate not the actual sums which would repeatedly falsify that absurd claim, but sums which, although obviously fantastic and impossible, would demonstrate that the claim would eventually be falsified.

I am more given than most to believing my own lunacy, but even I would have giggled if anyone had told me that my most extreme exaggerations would come literally true eight weeks after my joke. Yet so it has proved: Eurotunnel is at this moment asking for another two billion pounds to throw into their hole in the ground, and I would not be in the least surprised if the banks stamped up every penny of it ("...can't stop now... wasting our original investment... critics would laugh"). André's a sound chap... having lunch with Parkinson next month... light at the end of the tunnel ha-ha-ha...") and then forked out, around the end of July, another billion or two, or three, or possibly nineteen.

There is, however, a serious aspect to this pantomime. When the madness began, there was a government announcement - indeed, it was incorporated in the legislation - to the effect that there would be no public funds for the project; I gather that the Prime Minister herself insisted on that promise. After a time, however, when even the people in charge of the tunnel could hear the clock striking thirteen, a new note was sounded.

There was no way round the legislation, but there just might be a way round the legislation. The law forbids any public investment in the building of the tunnel; ah, but that does not preclude, or with enough impudence could be deemed not to preclude, the full job in hand and a couple of months later is whining in the traditional terms, "Morning",

is absolutely essential if the plan to ruin the whole of Kent completely is to be finished on time.

When I heard of the plot, Tribulation Wholesome of Amsterdam sprang at once into my nasty mind. He is a character in Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*, scandalized beyond measure, until he is told that it is *not coining* but *casting* that is under discussion, when he at once sees the distinction, and takes his whack with a clear conscience.

Not long after my philippic against the tunnel, I wrote about the extraordinary habit this country has of rewarding failure. There could be no better example than the use of taxpayers' money, in a deal designed to get round the law, to pay the bills of a company which proudly announces that its coffers are quite sufficiently full for the job in hand and a couple of months later is whining in the traditional terms, "Morning",

Guv'nor, can you spare a few billion for a poor old bloke what's down on his luck?"

So far, the Government has not reached for our pockets; but it has not reached for a gun, either, and I regard as ominous the fact that although weeks have gone by since the rail-link option was floated, there has been no firm statement to the effect that the tunnellers will not get a penny from the state for any purpose whatever.

We shall see. But we shall also

see what happens in the very jolly business of the firm of British and Commonwealth and the collapse of its subsidiary, Atlantic Computers, which collapse has in turn effectively ruined the parent company.

In many ways, this fiasco is a re-run of the Ferranti merry-merry, not least because of the astonishment engendered in both lots of bosses by the discovery that their enterprises were well and truly up the spout.

Listen to this: "Sir Peter Thompson, B&C's chairman,

said the company learnt of the size of Atlantic's problems only two weeks ago." Then listen to this:

Mr John Gunn, B&C's embattled chief executive, received the unequivocal support of his board, despite being the main architect of the strategy which cast down one of the market's highest flyers.

The details of Atlantic's very creative accounting are too complex to be rehearsed in detail here, though they can perhaps be summarized by saying that the dazzling wheezes they had hit upon consisted of buying items dear and, after a due interval, selling the same goods cheap. This daringly unorthodox move attracted much censure, even suspicion, from the more staid members of the business community, but the figures speak for themselves; when the shares were suspended, B&C faced the prospect of having to write off at least £600 million.

The question that needs answering, of course (though certainly will not be answered), is the same this time is Dame Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth Drake (two cats, no dogs). Animal welfare campaigners who have long pressed for proper registration of dogs received an unexpected boost when the Commons information office produced an imaginary Cats (Licensing) Bill to guide bemused legislators through the arcane legislative procedures of Westminster. The RSPCA seized upon the leaflet and has been sending copies to MPs urging them to enact it as stands, with "cats" deleted and the word "dogs" inserted in its place.

● Where did Norman Tebbit get his cricket-test idea? According to actor Warren Mitchell it was lifted straight from a Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, featuring television's racist caricature, Alf Garnett.

## Labour markets

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI and presenter of the BBC 2 *Troubleshooter* series, is putting his formidable entrepreneurial skills to work for the increasingly market-conscious Labour Party. Sir John, on behalf of Kramer Associates, the management consultancy, has invited businesses to pay £1,610 per ticket for a "Meet the Shadow Cabinet" session at a Park Lane hotel next month. The venture has upset Tory MPs, who have tabled a Commons motion predicting that the "Meet the Shadow Cabinet" offer is overpriced and will be undersubscribed. They suggest that Sir John should devote one *Troubleshooter* programme to investigating Labour's "inexperienced management, union-dominated workforce and outdated product lines". They do not request that he apply his skills to their own troubled outfit, no doubt apprehensive that he might begin by suggesting they sack the managing director.

## The vilification of Vilnius

Russian propaganda appeared to have hijacked the airwaves on Saturday night when BBC 2 started flashing the words "Lithuanian scum! Beware the Lithuanians!" on our screens. Proving that racial tensions are nothing new in that part of the world, they were subtitled in the Covent Garden production of *Boris Godunov* at the Kirov Theatre, Leningrad. The contemporary parallels were inescapable but musical director Valery Gergiev, in an interview during the interval, got a little carried away. He insisted throughout on referring to Leningrad by its pre-revolutionary name of St Petersburg and to the Kirov company by its imperial name, the Mariinsky Opera. Surely a case of taking *glasnost* a little too far? Even with the pace of change in the Soviet Union, few Russians have been heard to call for the return of the Tsars - yet.

Packing a punch

Quaker man", that has most upset American Quakers. A national flood of protest has ensued. Fortunately British Quakers take a more relaxed approach. David Firth, editor of their weekly newspaper, *The Friend*, restricts himself to observing mildly: "Popeye is always hitting people over the head, which is not really a quakerly activity. He should give up porridge and stick to Olive Oil."

A new novel by Joseph Wambaugh, *The Golden Orange*, offers some useful advice to *Salman Rushdie*. One of the inhabitants of Southern California's Orange County is quoted as saying: "That gay Rushdie ought to move to Orange County. Our Eryrians couldn't leave the discos long enough to kill anybody."

## Oliver's request

In the interest of fairness, Oliver Letwin, Tory rival to Glenda Jackson at the next election, is demanding his own television series. Before being selected, Labour's gittering candidate was offered the presenter's role in the BBC's six-part Sunday night series *Women Mean Business*, and the BBC has enraged Tories by continuing with it. They recall that when Rob Richards was chosen as Conservative candidate in the Vale of Glamorgan by-election last year, BBC Wales suspended him as presenter of a nightly news programme - and did not give him the job back when he lost. Far from calling for Jackson to be banned, Letwin says he will be satisfied with a series of his own and, without specifying the subject, is writing to the BBC to

demand it. Whether Tory MPs' want Letwin on television six weeks running is an open question. His previous claim to fame was as a member of the Downing Street team which designed the poll tax.

## Cats and dogs

Rebellions come thick and fast in the Tory party these days. Having seen off Norman Tebbit over Hong Kong, the Government may have a tougher fight on its hands tonight over dog registration. Leading the rebels





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## MAKING SENSE OF UNION

The Dublin summit has brought some long overdue realism to the debate about "political union" between the 12 member states of the European Community. The credit for this realism must go to Mrs Thatcher. Given the barrage of abuse to which she was subjected before the summit, she can be seen to have played a most difficult hand with skill. Gone, thank goodness, are the histrionics of 10 years ago; gone too the display of petulant hostility to any idea of change in the Community's constitutional structure.

On her insistence, foreign ministers are to produce before the next summit in June a detailed analysis of the possible meanings of political union. They must set out its institutional and legal implications, and provide route-maps with the destinations clearly marked. The importance of this preparation is that the next summit will almost certainly agree to an inter-governmental conference on the subject. It will not now proceed in a vacuum. Five other heads of government supported Mrs Thatcher.

In addition, Mrs Thatcher achieved a preliminary definition of political union which emphasized the need to establish the Community's "democratic legitimacy", improve the effectiveness of its institutions, and provide for united and coherent external policies. That is a good starting point for negotiations, because it could apply equally to the "deepening" of the Community sought (for different reasons) by Germany and France, and to Mrs Thatcher's preferred vision of a looser federation of states.

If an obsession with the meaning of diplomatic terms is considered an irritating British habit, so be it. After last week's advocacy of political union by its chief proponents, France and the Federal Republic, neither could come up with a definition that even remotely made sense. This in itself might do for an occasional after-dinner speech, were it not for the casual lack of sensitivity for political union shown by those two leaders last week. As Mrs Thatcher pointed out, what credence should attach to Franco-German rhetoric about pooled sovereignty when they rush off a bilateral foreign policy initiative on Lithuania? And who are the French and Germans to expect established European democracies to relinquish national rights when the countries of Eastern Europe are exuberantly regaining?

If France and Germany will not say what

they mean, Britain is right to help them out. Mrs Thatcher at least attempted to describe what political union was not, to ring-fence the areas of sovereignty that she judges indispensable if the distinctive identities of the Community's member nations are to be preserved. Her list of things better left alone included each country's head of state and national legislature, and its electoral and legal systems. There must, she insisted, be no weakening, in favour of "government by a technocratic élite", of the powers of the Council of Ministers; and no dilution of the West's Nato-based defence arrangements.

This may amount to a restatement, in sicker tones, of much of Mrs Thatcher's famous Bruges speech of September 1988. What was refreshingly novel was that, for once, Mrs Thatcher stated her reservations without attracting overt disavowals from her peers. The ascent she garnered has much to do with her more subdued tone of voice. It also reflects the fact that her list of exclusions was an astute political summary of ordinary people's scepticism — not just in Britain — towards the accumulation of power in Brussels and (if Germany has its way) in the European Parliament.

Mrs Thatcher's approach would allow for little more than closer policy coordination between governments and more efficient administration. This would require, as she hopes, minimal revision to the Treaty of Rome. It is incompatible with full-scale political integration but can, and this is important, be reconciled with "strengthening the political dimension of the Community". This is one way of describing a route which M Delors himself last week preferred to the "unfortunate" resonances of "political union".

The British approach opposes the French fixation with "locking Germany into the Community". It offers a more open debate about the kind of room in which Germany would feel so comfortable that a lock would be superfluous. It also reflects Mrs Thatcher's wider concern with a Europe predating the Treaty of Rome, a cultural space whose boundaries embrace not only Budapest and Moscow, but stretch out as far as the United States.

The harmony of the Dublin summit may not hold as more detailed negotiations proceed towards June. But the Prime Minister has casted adrift to avoid check.

## SILENCE IN COURT

In October 1988 Lord Denning and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Tom King, made some comments on an accused person's right to silence, while a jury in Winchester happened to be trying three Irish persons on terrorist charges. All three had exercised their right to remain silent in court. By an odd coincidence, with no relevance except to the amount of publicity his words received, Mr King was himself the target of the conspiracy to murder with which the three were charged.

The gist of Mr King's and Lord Denning's remarks was that the guilty had more reason to remain silent than the innocent, and that a prosecuting counsel ought to be entitled, contrary to practice hitherto, to draw this suggestion to the attention of the court. They made no reference to the Winchester case. Mr King was engaged in explaining an Order he had tabled in the House of Commons relating to a restriction on the right of silence in Northern Ireland (which has since come into force). Lord Denning, commenting on this on television, repeated his long-held view that something similar should be done in England.

The Court of Appeal last week concluded that the Winchester jury, once its members had been made aware of these opinions, might have been unfairly influenced. A new trial should therefore have been ordered. The defendants have been released.

Lord Denning accepted in *The Times* today that it is *prima facie* a contempt of court to say anything which might prejudice a jury in the course of a trial. But in this case, he indignantly denies the charge and protests at being found guilty in his absence and without right of defence. For a former judge to be complaining of his vulnerability to contempt of court will be

## SAVE SPITALFIELDS

A decision last week by a neighbourhood committee in Bethnal Green in East London has thrown £500m of property up in the air, to land only after Thursday's local elections. The move of the old Spitalfields market this year to Stratford East vacates 12 acres of probably the most enticing land in Western Europe.

A network of streets, with many buildings dating from the early 18th-century, spreads east from the City of London boundary at Bishopsgate. North and east of it lies residential London; huge office blocks are rising to the west in Broadgate and south in Wapping. Spitalfields is in their shadow, as vulnerable as was Covent Garden in West London in the 1970s. Covent Garden was saved from overdevelopment only after mass public protest forced the 1970 Conservative Government to intervene. The result is today one of the most attractive and profitable conservation areas in any capital city. Can Spitalfields be saved in the same way?

The proposal which went forward for local planning approval last week offers no scope for optimism. It involves the construction of 1m square feet of commercial space in a massive linked galleria. To ease this monstrosity down the throats of the Tower Hamlets council, a consortium of property and construction interests have resorted to the gambit of offering what amounts to a political bribe, 118 low-cost homes elsewhere on the site, the sort of planning gain notorious in the 1960s, enabling developers to disregard zoning restrictions with developments such as Centre Point and St Paul's, Victoria.

The City Corporation wants to make as much as possible out of the old market site: roughly £120m, of which half will go on paying

ironic to many in the press. But he is correct. He and Mr King had a right to say what they said when they said it; newspapers and television had a right to report them saying it; and the jury was capable of disregarding such comments, particularly when warned to do so by the trial judge.

The issue of the right to silence has been publicly discussed at length at least since 1972. Nobody could suppose that the idea that silence may suggest guilt was so novel that no member of the jury would ever have thought of it, had he not heard of the comments of Lord Denning and Mr King. The Court of Appeal has shown, once again, how ridiculous is the mythology which surrounds contempt of court.

That said, the Court of Appeal might have had better reasons to be worried about the safety of these convictions. The jury at Winchester was out for 15 hours, and at one point reported to the judge it was virtually hung. The eventual verdict was reached by a vote of 10 to 2.

The jury's agonized decision to convict appeared to depend upon an even more questionable theory than an inference of guilt drawn from their silence, namely that they were part of an IRA intelligence gathering operation. The police admitted in court there was no evidence for this. It was an inference based largely on the fact that they were from Ireland, and that they had collected what could have been a terrorist hit-list.

These doubts must surely have passed through the original jury's mind. To be acting suspiciously and to be Irish is not sufficient proof of involvement in an IRA conspiracy. The Court of Appeal should have questioned that instead.

for the market's relocation. The rest is public-sector profit. Earlier, more conservationist schemes for Spitalfields have all founded on this profit figure. One envisaged the neighbourhood restored as a classical townscape, a refreshing retreat from the overpowering City on its borders. Another retained much of this low-rise atmosphere and was widely acclaimed, but was considered insufficiently profitable.

The present architects are the Americans, Swank, Hayden, Connell, creators of New York's Trump Tower. They responded to a more ruthless brief with a great brick block on the market site, effectively pushing the City boundary 100 yards to the east.

This is the last corner of central London to face renewal. Given the exciting recent advances in planning and architecture in British cities, it would be a tragedy if the old ways were to triumph here. The case for retaining low-rise shops, offices and private houses in this area is clear. There is no private landowner to complain of lost revenue. There are two public authorities, the City Corporation and Tower Hamlets council, in a position to ordain what should occur. Both should be prised off their obsession with maximum public housing or maximum rental profit.

The likelihood is that the local council will go Labour this week. The present scheme may be rejected, and thankfully go to public inquiry. If so, the decision will rest with the Environment Secretary, Mr Chris Patten. He knows what he should do with such destructive plans. London can renew itself and prosper without losing its character. If Covent Garden could be saved, so can Spitalfields.

## In defence of freedom of speech

From Lord Denning

Sir, In your issue of Saturday, April 28, you headlined one of your reports "Three convictions quashed on 'right to silence'". You set out the reasons given by the judges of the Court of Appeal. These were that Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, and I had made statements on television which were so prejudicial to the three accused that a fair trial was impossible before the jury that was trying them. That unfairness "could not be overcome by any direction to the jury and that the only way in which justice could be done was by discharging the jury and ordering a retrial".

This pronouncement changes Mr King and me — and the television people — with a serious contempt of court. We had offended against sections 1 and 2 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981. We had been guilty of conduct which interfered with the course of justice regardless of intent to do so.

The judges of the Court of Appeal did not communicate with me before making this serious charge against me. They did it under the cloak of an absolute privilege. In the face of it, all I can do is to write to you. My view is that justice was done in the Crown Court at Winchester by Mr Justice Swinton Thomas (the presiding judge of the Western Circuit) and a Hampshire jury. It was not done at the Old Bailey in London by three judges of the Court of Appeal.

Your etc,  
DENNING,  
The Lawn,  
Whitchurch,  
Hampshire.  
April 29.

## EC borders and 1992

From Mr Alan Butt Philip

Sir, The lack of interest in helping Britain avert a mass exodus from Hong Kong on the part of other EC governments should not cause you any surprise (leading article, April 19). Such an attitude follows exactly the same logic as the British Government's own insistence that immigration policy is a national government prerogative and outside the European Community's competence.

Why then should other EC governments help Britain out over Hong Kong, any more than Britain should help Portugal out over the situation in neighbouring Macau?

Nor are you correct in stating that after 1992 any migrant into an EC member State is by definition a migrant into the Community as a whole. The UK Government has never accepted that free movement of persons within the EC should apply to non-EC nationals, however legitimately resident in another EC member State. That is one reason why the British Gov-

ernment is so reluctant to see an end to border controls within the Community.

Yet it is extremely difficult to see how a frontier-free Europe can be delivered after 1992 unless freedom of movement within the EC is offered to EC and non-EC nationals alike. It is also abundantly clear that EC states will have to co-ordinate their immigration policies as the barriers in Europe come down, since the decisions of any one government in this policy area will increasingly impact upon many others.

Such a sensible outcome is only likely to be achieved when national governments have learned the hard way just how limited is their own capacity to take effective action on immigration matters without sharing their supposed sovereignty with their neighbours.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN BUTT PHILIP,  
University of Bath,  
Centre for European Industrial  
Studies,  
Claverdon Down,  
Bath, Avon.  
April 19.

## Business rate

From Dr Gerard Bulger

Sir, In your leader of April 25 you state that the uniform business rate has resulted in billions of pounds being transferred from southern to northern businesses. It would have been more correct to state that this transfer was from southern to northern landlords.

A business, in determining where to place itself, will take into account the sum of rent (or mortgage interest) and rates in a given area. The sum that the business will bear will be determined by market forces. If a council lowered its rates, the effect was to allow landlords to raise rents to match that sum, as far as the market would bear. Similarly raising rates suppresses local rents.

Businesses are driven out of inner cities by factors other than the rates. These include poor educational facilities for its employees' children, poor transport, and planning restrictions.

You suggest that local business should have its rates set again locally. In that case business should have local representation to go with their taxation. Yours sincerely,  
GERARD BULGER,  
58 Newick Road,  
Hackney, ES.  
April 26.

## Ecologically minded

From Mr J. T. Chambers

Sir, The answer to Dr Flood's problem (April 25) is simple. If he were to stop worrying about other people's destruction of the rain forests and concentrate instead on avoiding the destruction of his own lungs and the pollution of our atmosphere, he could be relieved of his dilemma of whether to choose his cigs in packets or cigs in tins. Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CHAMBERS,  
36 Montfort College,  
Bodley Road,  
Romsey,  
Hampshire.  
April 25.

From Mr P. G. B. Wills

Sir, Dr Flood need not regard his small cigar tins as expendable. I find them invaluable for storing nails, screws, and similar small items. They then store neatly in a biscuit tin, and perhaps Dr Flood could find some other things to store in tins stored in tins. Yours faithfully,  
P. G. B. WILLS,  
54 Fram Road,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
Kent.  
April 25.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Balancing Opera House books

From the Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, Last week, when the Royal Opera House announced the programme for opera next season (report, April 19), we reported that, following a deficit in the last financial year of over £3 million, the current year was likely to produce a further shortfall of £2 million.

I know as most people knew that three people were being tried at Winchester for conspiring to murder Mr King but I knew nothing of the course of the trial. I had read nothing of it and had no idea that it involved the right to silence. If I had been charged I should have pleaded the defence of freedom of speech given by Section 5 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981:

A publication made as or part of a discussion in good faith of public affairs or other matters of general public interest is not to be treated as contempt of court under strict liability. Of the risk of individual merit or prejudice to particular legal proceedings is merely incidental to the discussion.

so.

That section was inserted into the statute on the recommendation of the Contempt of Court Committee supported by speeches of distinguished law lords.

Yet the judges of the Court of Appeal did not communicate with me before making this serious charge against me. They did it under the cloak of an absolute privilege. In the face of it, all I can do is to write to you. My view is that justice was done in the Crown Court at Winchester by Mr Justice Swinton Thomas (the presiding judge of the Western Circuit) and a Hampshire jury. It was not done at the Old Bailey in London by three judges of the Court of Appeal.

Yours etc,  
DENNING,  
The Lawn,  
Whitchurch,  
Hampshire.  
April 29.

The consequences of the financial squeeze we have experienced, as Arts Council funding has been reduced by 15 per cent in real terms between 1984 and 1989, have been well known to Government.

These arrangements present a stark contrast with the NHS. Regular reports have indicated the widespread significant underfunding of our hospitals, amounting to many millions of pounds. Unlike the Royal Opera House, health authorities have no choice but to drastically reduce services to patients to stay within their budget. Mr Clarke undoubtedly would say that Jeremy Isaacs and his colleagues have mismanaged the affairs of the Opera House.

There is something seriously wrong with our priorities that allows continual deterioration in the service to patients but allows them — health permitting — to visit the opera. Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL H. HARRIS  
(Consultant orthopaedic surgeon)  
72 Harley Street, W1.  
April 20.

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### Hardback novels

From Dr Crawford Knox

Sir, David Holbrook has expressed concern (April 18) about the failure of libraries to buy hardback fiction and notes the deleterious effect on reading of television.

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### Change in S Africa

From Mr W. J. Tomlinson

Sir, There is a fundamental flaw in Conor Cruise O'Brien's suggestion (article, April 22) that South Africa's President de Klerk might "go for broke, and accept non-racial elections on a common roll".

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## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
April 28: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, this morning unveiled a statue of Field Marshal the Viscount Slim at Raleigh Green, Whitehall.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall) and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Bernard Chackfield (Chairman, Burma Star Association).

The Lady Farnham, Sir Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Burma Star Association, this evening attended a Reunion of the Association at the Royal Albert Hall.

His Royal Highness was received by Colonel the Viscount Slim (President) and Air Vice-Marshal Sir Bernard Chackfield (Chairman). Captain Michael Hutchings was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 29: The Princess of Wales.

Patron, Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, attended the charity's Malcolm Sargent Birthday Concert of Verdi's Requiem at the Royal Albert Hall, SW1.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
April 29: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon received the Freedom of the City of Peterborough at a ceremony held in the Town Hall, Peterborough.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire (Mr Michael Bevan).

**VORK HOUSE**  
**ST JAMES'S PALACE**

April 28: The Duchess of Kent, President of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester this evening attended a Concert at the College in support of the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Fund Appeal.

April 29: The Duchess of Kent, as Guest of Honour, this afternoon attended the Littlewoods Challenge Cup Football Final at Wembley Stadium.

## Marriages

**Mr R.L. Bourlet**  
and Miss E.J. Elliott  
A Service of Blessing took place on Saturday, April 28, at Chelsea Old Church, following the marriage of Mr Ronald Bourlet and Miss Felicity Elliott, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Elliott. The Prebendary C.E. Leighton Thompson officiated.

The bride, escorted by her father, was attended by Miss Davina Elliott, Mrs Bridget Bentall, and Loreena Gunn, Mr David Graham Young was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr M.F.P. Cripps**  
and Miss C.W. Roseau  
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28, at St Barnabas Church, Cobb, Co Cork, between Mr Michael Cripps, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Cripps, of St Pierre Du Bois Guerneville, and Miss Claire Ronan, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Ronan, of Cuskinny, Cobb, Co Cork. Father Reidy and the Rev Hall-Thompson officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Louise Tilson, Alice Richardson, Jessica Ronan, and Jamie Morton. Mr Adrian Cripps was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

**Mr J.A. Fellowes**  
and Miss E.J.  
Kitchen  
Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attended the marriage on Saturday at St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey, of Mr Julian Alexander Fellowes, youngest son of Mr Peregrine Fellowes, and the late Mrs Fellowes, and stepson of Lady Margaret Fellowes, of The Court, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, to Miss Emma Joy Kitchener, only child of the late Hon Charles Kitchener and of the Hon Mrs Kitchener, of Croylands, Romsey, Hampshire. Canon Donald Gray officiated, assisted by Father John Arnold.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, was attended by Lady Gabriella Windsor, Alexandra Fellowes, Cordelia Fellowes, Harriet Colthurst, Edward Colthurst, and William Portal. Mr Andrew Morgan was best man.

A reception was held at the House of Lords and the honeymoon will be spent in Venice.

**Mr D.G. Garner**  
and Miss R.R. Atkins  
The marriage took place in Sonning, Berkshire, on Saturday, April 28, between Mr David Garner, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Garner, of Woodley, Berkshire, and Miss Rebecca Atkins, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Atkins, of Earley, Berkshire.

The honeymoon is being spent in Paris.

**The Earl of Hillsborough**  
and Miss D.J. Bunting  
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Gregory's, Bedale, North Yorkshire, of the Earl of Hillsborough, elder son

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The marriage took place on

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name. You have done amazing things; you have faithfully carried out the promises you made long ago. Amen. Ps 15:1

## BIRTHS

**BLACKWELL MURRAY** - On April 22nd, to Angela (née Fawcett) and David, a son, James, brother for Jessica.

**BILLION** - On April 26th, to John and Linda, a son, James Edward, brother for Bertie, and Jennifer.

**BROWN** - On April 22nd, in Johannesburg, to Marie-Catherine, Francesca (Tita) (née Rundo), wife of Nicolas Brown, a son, Michael, brother for Michael, both well.

**SEALE** - On April 26th, at The Palace Hotel, London, a daughter, Amy Laurence, and a son, Oliver Guy Stephenson, a brother for Nicholas.

## DEATHS

**BRASSOP** - On April 26th, Linda (née Hart) and David, 100, of 100a Newgate Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, at Adderbrooks Road, a long illness so very courageous.

**COVENTRY** - On April 27th, suddenly at home in London, his daughter of the late Hon. and Mrs Charles Coventry. Funeral arrangements to follow.

**DONAHUE** - On April 22nd, suddenly at Westminster Hospital, Adelio (née D'Antonio), 82, of 100a Newgate Street, London, William O'Connor and the late East Betty, beloved mother of Christopher and Denise, Diana and David, a son, Dennis, and a daughter, Sophie Peacock, both well.

**EDGAR** - On April 26th, Elizabeth Jane (née Balkin), in hospital, aged 82 years, of his mother of Penny, Jillian and Bill. Funeral service and interment at Woodlands Cemetery, London.

**FOORD-MCKEY** - On April 26th, at Princess Mary's R.P.C. Hospital, Hatton Cross, London, T.D., M. McKekey after a painful illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Pauline, and father of and grandfather. Funeral private. Memorial service later.

**HORN** - On April 27th, Michael of Roger Horn (M.C.B.) retired. Funeral 2.30pm Friday May 4th at Chichester Cathedral.

**HUTTER** - On April 26th, David, artist, after much suffering from cancer at Collier Green on Saturday day May 2nd at 12.20pm. Geof and Linda would be grateful if friends and family donations in memory of him directed to The Macmillan Nursing fund would be appreciated. Tel 01-882 42272. David Cowell, Eric Pen-Y-Voat, Mwng St. Ruthin, Chwyd.

**LINER** - On April 21st, in the General Middlesex Hospital, London (Mark), aged 81 years. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium, London, Thursday May 3rd at 10.30 am. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, 83 Westbourne Grove, London W1, to 10.30 am. Tel 01-580 2400, by 10.20 am.

**PITTS** - On April 26th, peacefully at home. Madge, beloved wife of Ernest and mother of Ernest. Funeral Service, Friday May 4th at 10.30 am. Christ Church, Virginia Water, followed by cremation for family at 12.30 pm. Donations to the Royal British Legion Appeal Fund.

**REEVES** - On April 27th, in the General Middlesex Hospital, London, Harry Worrall (Mark), aged 81 years. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium, London, Thursday May 3rd at 10.30 am. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, 83 Westbourne Grove, London W1, to 10.30 am. Tel 01-580 2400, by 10.20 am.

**SEVER** - On April 26th, suddenly at home. John Seaver. Funeral service at 10.45am Saturday May 5th at St. Oswald's Church, Ashbourne, followed by family service at Derby. Donations to the Royal British Legion Appeal Fund. But donations may be sent to Parochial Care Centre, Parochial, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MICHAELAH** - On March 29th, suddenly at home, in Chelmsford, Essex, Patrick, aged 15, much loved and loving son of Trevor and Robert, brother and friend of Head Girl Charlotte of Bethany School. Funeral at King's Marrow Church on Friday March 30th 1.30pm. Donations to the charity of the Fisherman's Mission, 40 Fisher's Wharf, London EC4. Tel 01-830 0047.

**ROBERT** - On April 26th, in Edgware, Middlesex, after a long illness, Tom, beloved husband of Penny and Paigey to Jessica and Charlie. Funeral at St Thomas' Church, Edgware, brother of David and Davina.

**THOMAS** - On April 24th, suddenly at home in Chelmsford, Essex, after a long illness, Tom, beloved husband of Penny and Paigey to Jessica and Charlie. Funeral at St Thomas' Church, Edgware, brother of David and Davina.

**THOMAS** - On April 26th, suddenly at home in Chelmsford, Essex, after a long illness, Tom, beloved husband of Penny and Paigey to Jessica and Charlie. Funeral at St Thomas' Church, Edgware, brother of David and Davina.

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**THOMAS** - On April 26th, suddenly at home in Chelmsford, Essex, after a long illness, Tom, beloved husband



# Hunting where the fur flies

As Harrods bows to current social and environmental pressures and closes its fur department, Nicola Murphy joins what may turn out to be one of the last mink hunts in Britain, and weighs the huntsmen's arguments that they are simply fulfilling a need

**T**his month, after 140 years of selling furs, Harrods closed its salon. As animal rights activists everywhere celebrated, I went hunting for the creature which produces the coats with the highest profile: mink. I joined one of the first hunts of what may well be one of the last seasons. For after a long-running drama, featuring saboteurs and undercover agents, the hunters' traditional stance — that they are engaged in pest control and conservation — is under serious attack.

Often mistaken for otters, mink in fact are much smaller — half the length and a fifth of the weight. Britain's first mink colony was founded in the 1950s, and by 1970, when the fur boom collapsed, there were some 700 registered ranches farming the American mink, Mustela Vision, which had been imported since 1929. Some mink escaped from increasingly badly maintained cages, while some owners simply released theirs, not expecting any.

Never mind the quality, feel the width as the latest thing in unisex, unisize denim hits the streets

## Fat, thin, big or small: it's all in the jeans

FAT persons of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your dignity. A jeans manufacturer, calling itself the Legendary Joe Bloggs Company, insists it has invented a pair of one-size unisex denims which flatter the fullest figure.

On someone who is slim the jeans are designed to be fashionably baggy. "On the corpulent they are... snug."

The photographic session where opera singer Katherine Witney agreed to model this novel garment was delayed because the diva was having a little difficulty in the changing room. But it was not, as the photographer suggested, because 30-year-old Ms Witney could not get into the jeans.

"I put on false nails in an attempt to make myself look a bit more glamorous but found I couldn't cope with the fit buttons," she explained.

You can judge for yourself how successful the jeans, which can span sizes 10 to 20,

are (Ms Witney is seated on the left in our photograph), but Ms Witney, whose vital statistics are 43-35-46, pronounced them "very comfortable. I don't tend to wear jeans because they are usually so tight around the thighs, but these are nice and baggy," she said. "They seem to be built for big ladies. Most designers don't seem to know we do things like go in at the waist, even if it isn't very far."

Shami Ahmed, managing director of Legendary Joe Bloggs, a name he chose because it was "common-sounding and truly British", is planning a £50,000 advertising campaign in this country. Then he intends to launch the LJB jeans in Europe, America and Australia.

Last week the tabloid press gave the jeans, and the company's search for a fat model to promote them, some coverage — since when, Mr Ahmed says, "our switchboard has been jammed". There's two things

"It's an absolutely stupid idea," says Michael Reeves of clothes company Steel and Reeves, which caters for sizes 16 to 26. "It's just about an impossibility. The jeans are going to look absolutely different on different sized women. They say men look good in these enormous jeans. I'm 45 and I look perfectly ridiculous."

You can almost anything with jeans, and over the years the manufacturers have. They have made us lie on the floor prising ourselves into our drainpipes, they have made us bulge and show our pantie lines in stretch jeans. They have made us dump our little black dresses to wear straight westerns to cocktail parties.

Among today's teenagers the only things to wear are asexual, baggy, flared jeans — and Mr Ahmed has just the job for them, too. "We make the widest flares in England at 25 inches," he says, adding modestly. "There's two things

in Manchester: one is Strangeways, the other is us." The four-year-old company manufactures one and a half million pairs of jeans a year. The one-size jeans will sell for between £40 and £50, and Mr Ahmed predicts that they are going to be the jeans of the future, inspired not only by the unisex trend but by the eco-

nomic climate. "A size 16 woman on a diet can end up size 12, she won't have to buy new jeans. A girl and her mum can share a pair; a boy and his dad can share a pair. And a size 10 pregnant woman should be able to keep on wearing her jeans," Mr Ahmed explains.

Only time will tell whether

## After-dinner artistry

### Mrs Thatcher got her speaker's gavel the easy way

The art of after-dinner speaking involves more than just owning a good speech. Such smoothies as Cecil Parkinson and Jeffrey Archer give chillingly polished performances, but they don't raise the roof. Relaxed audiences like a speaker who sounds as if he (or she) is making it up on the hoof, and might get indiscreet at any moment. This is a magical feeling, generated by the most unexpected people: the Princess Royal, at private, unreported dinners, is surprisingly spontaneous and very funny. Broadcasters such as Brian Redhead are always successful too, their trade having taught them a *mâitre d'hôtel* conversational fluency that is the opposite of the orator's rant.

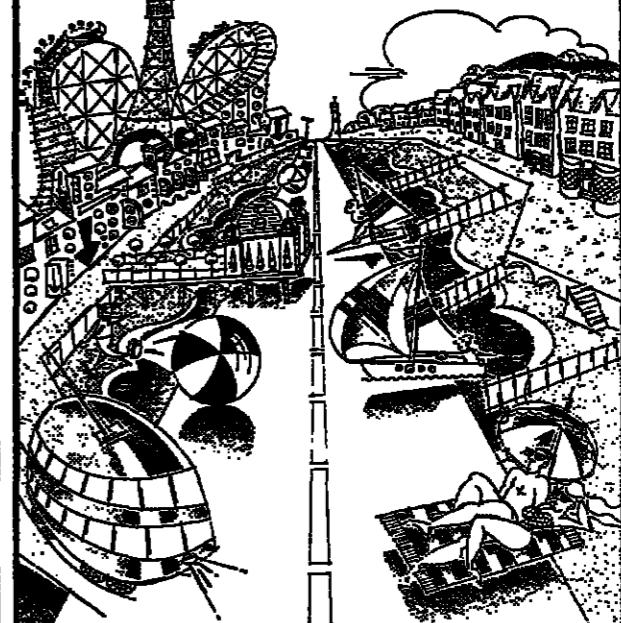
But whenever seasoned speakers meet to compare their wounds, there will be some resentful mutterings. After all, Mrs Thatcher had an Autocue machine, a carefully designed stage-set and a loyal, hand-picked audience. Would she have been as effective faced with a dog-eared pack of index cards, a howling microphone and a roomful of sozzled Rotarians?

Even the riotous of £1,000-a-night speakers have to contend with some or all of these handicaps. Those of us who operate rather lower down the financial scale suffer even worse indignities. I have never forgotten the chairperson who cheerfully said: "Thank you, Old Mrs. Wetherby stayed awake nearly to the end, which is always a good sign"; especially as I had been muffing every punch-line in the last 10 minutes because of my growing conviction that Mrs Wetherby had died in her chair. And John Timpson, an old warhorse of the after-dinner circuit, once reported the harrowing experience of getting his fee paid at the table, counted out in florins from the raffle-money tin.

I once — only once — spoke at two literary lunches in the same week, and my fellow-speaker at both was Gerald Durrell. Meeting on the second day we looked at one another in mild dismay. Durrell said: "Tell you what. You do my speech, I'll do yours. I can remember most of it." If we had dared, we should both have got gavels for it. Compressed-sawdust ones, perhaps.

Libby Purves

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THE  
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## Pick of the Week

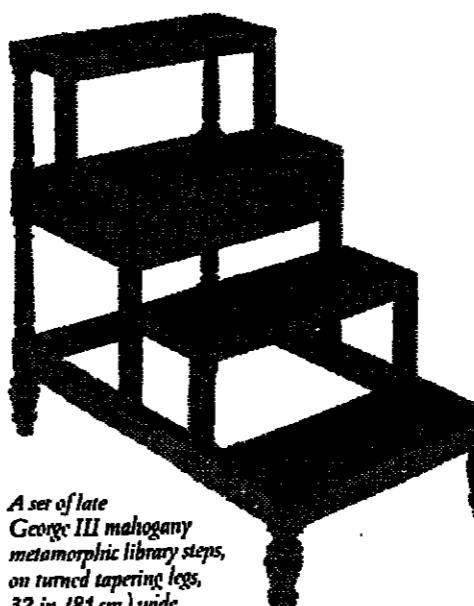


## CHRISTIE'S

OUR season of country house sales begins today when contents, surplus to requirements, will be sold at Nostell Priory on the instruction of the Winn Family.

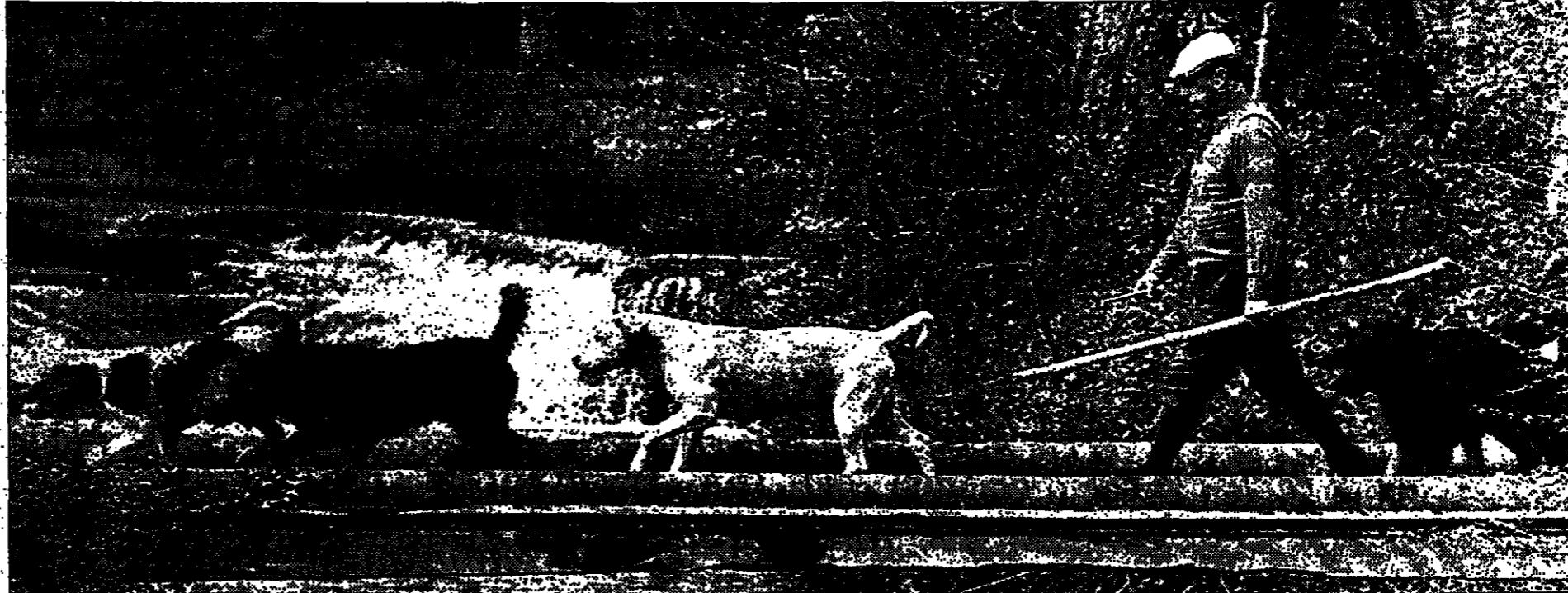
The two-day sale will feature 300 lots of furniture including early English oak, Georgian, Regency and fine 19th century pieces by makers such as Gillow. Works of art, prints, textiles, porcelain, maps, garden ornaments, arms, armour and antiquities acquired by the family over the last 300 years will also be offered.

This set of late George III library steps is included in the sale at Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorkshire on Monday, 30 April and Tuesday, 1 May at 11.00 a.m. For further information on this and any other sales in the next week, please telephone (01) 581 7611 or Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (01) 839 9060.



A set of late George III mahogany metamorphic library steps, on turned tapering legs, 32 in. (81 cm.) wide. Estimate: £2,500-4,000

8 King Street, London SW1  
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7  
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow



Hounding the mink: "On a hot day, it's absolutely gorgeous," a devotee says. "It's not cruel, because the mink do escape." But are the hunters now an endangered species?

to survive. "In an act of equally gross stupidity animal liberationists let out more," says John Bryant from the League Against Cruel Sports. In 1975 Mr Bryant was acquitted of the charge of receiving two beagles taken from an ICI laboratory.

Between 1963 and 1970, the Ministry of Agriculture regarded mink as a pest because they attacked farmyard poultry, and attempted in vain to eradicate them by trapping. In 1978, mink hunting was officially recognized as a field sport.

Bob Tucker, one of the joint masters of the Yeo Hunt in Dorset, has been first otter and then mink hunting for 35 years. An enormous man in great hunting uniform and plus fours, he met me at a pub. When he was met, I had not brought along saboteurs. I was allowed to join the meet, although the white-haired wife of a farmer felt Mr Tucker had not taken enough care: "You're one of them," she said. "I don't like speaking to people like that."

The drama intensified in 1981 when the league successfully introduced a "mole" into the hunters' ranks. He was Michael Huskisson, then the league's press

officer. Huskisson, who had been acquitted on the charge of stealing three beagles from an ICI laboratory in 1975, had been jailed two years later for his part in the desecration of the grave of the huntsman John Peel. Huskisson stayed under cover for two years and then emerged with a film which, among other things, alleged to disprove the mink hunters' claims of an "instant kill". The hunters have always denied the validity of the film. Huskisson was jailed again, in 1986, for his involvement in a raid on research laboratories.

The Yeo hunters and "whippers" whom I accompanied took care to ensure that the hounds did not go after deer, and that they did not go into an area where others were thought to be. In fact, nothing at all happened. No mink were found. Some 20 foxhounds, otterhounds and crossbreeds sniffed along the river bank. They only ever barked to "speak" to a rabbit: more cows gave tongue than did any of the dogs. They were watched by a

bunch of elderly local residents walking their dogs. "On a hot day," says Morice Jones, aged 29, "it's absolutely gorgeous. It's not cruel, because the mink do escape."

This, of course, is the argument for "good sport" — but nowadays mink hunting is not supposed to be good sport, but good pest control. When the Master himself admits that the young hounds often "go the wrong way for three-quarters of a mile", this appears a dubious argument.

Alan Rickard, the southwest regional spokesman for the British Field Sports Society and a former Master, makes no such admissions. He says hunting is the most effective means of control, as "mink are wise to traps".

John Birks of the Nature Conservancy Council disagrees. Dr Birks, who wrote his PhD on mink and has conducted post-doctoral research ever since, says: "It's absolute nonsense. You catch

far more mink by targeting sites at sick and using 'live cage' traps. While the hunt is on, other mink could be killing more chickens."

The hunters say preservation of wild life is their main concern:

"We're the conservationists," one said; "mink ruin the ecological balance," another added. According to Dr Birks, both are mistaken.

The main danger is that so long as they blame mink, as they previously blamed the otters, the real causes will remain undetected," Dr Birks says.

Another area of contention is the extent to which wildlife is disturbed. "All reputable bodies are against hunting because of the disruption," Mr Bryant says, while Mr Rickard insists that the frequent checking of traps causes more disturbance. "It is in the interests of hunters to keep public sympathy," Dr Birks says. "To do so, some propagate misinformation and blatantly ignore research."

Whoever is right, hunters are undoubtedly an endangered species: in 1987, 19 hunts were registered in Bailey's Hunting Directory; today there are 12. It's the mink who are here to stay.

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## POSTS

**COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION  
INNS OF COURT SCHOOL OF LAW  
REGISTRAR**

Applications are invited from professional administrators for appointment to the post of Registrar.

The post demands a high level of administrative, organisational and managerial performance combined with experience of working with computers. An ability to initiate action, whilst handling a heavy work load of a routine nature, is essential. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required. Previous experience in educational administration would be an advantage.

The salary will be by agreement, but will not be less than £27,740 per annum (inclusive of a London Allowance of £1,767 per annum).

The appointment will be from 1st July 1990, or earlier by agreement.

Further details are available from the Sub-Dean, The Council of Legal Education, 4 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5DX (Tel: 01 (071) from 6th May - 404-5787).

The closing date for applications is Monday 21st May 1990.

**UNIVERSITY OF BATH  
SCHOOL OF  
ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING**

Applications are invited for three Professorships:

**1. PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**

(reference 90/106)

With interests in Radio, Satellite and Telecommunications and Networks or Signal and Image Processing.

**2. PROFESSOR OF ELECTRONICS**

(reference 90/107)

With interests in Optoelectronics and Microwaves or VLSI Circuits for Analog and Digital Applications.

**3. PROFESSOR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

(reference 90/108)

With interests in the broad area of electrical engineering, including Control Systems, Magnetics, Power Systems or Power Electronics.

Applicants should have a first class record and strong links with industry.

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor J F Eastham, Head of School, tel. Bath (0225) 825055.

Further written particulars may be obtained from Peter J Hill, University Personnel Office, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, tel. Bath (0225) 825026, quoting reference numbers as given above.

Closing date for applications : 8th June 1990

**WELLS CATHEDRAL  
Education Officer**

The Dean and Chapter of Wells wish to appoint a colleague, ordained or lay, to share with them in the ministry of the Cathedral and in particular to develop its educational work.

The person appointed will have experience in education and a strong desire to develop and strengthen links with schools and to interpret the Cathedral and its life to visitors of all ages. This is a missionary task calling for insight, imagination and skill.

For further details write to the Cathedral Secretary, Wells Cathedral, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PA.


**WESTHILL  
COLLEGE  
BIRMINGHAM**

The TRUSTEES of  
WESTHILL COLLEGE  
wish to appoint for  
January, 1991 a

**PRINCIPAL**

who will also be Co-Director of the Newman and Westhill Academic Association.

Westhill College was founded by and is supported by the main Free Churches. It now works in close academic association with the neighbouring Newman College (Roman Catholic) and together they constitute a School within the Faculty of Education and Continuing Studies with over 1,000 students training as primary teachers, community and youth workers and church workers. Westhill is also part of the Federation of Selly Oak Colleges which has strong international links.

The person appointed should have good academic qualifications and appropriate professional experience and will be expected to give strong leadership to the Westhill College community and contribute to the development of the academic programmes as Co-Director of the Association and Head, in rotation, of the College School. Creative planning and financial management skills are essential together with a commitment to this unique ecumenical venture in higher education, involving relationships between the Associated Colleges, the University and the Selly Oak Federation.

The salary will be within the range of £35,000 - £40,000.

Closing date for applications: FRIDAY, 25th MAY, 1990.

Further particulars from the Clerk to the Governors, Westhill College, Weoley Park Road, Birmingham, B29 6LL. Telephone: 021-472 7245.

The Colleges School of the Faculty of Education and Continuing Studies of the University of Birmingham.

**UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM  
TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP  
IN CLASSICS**

Required for the three months October-December 1990, a Lecturer able to teach ancient philosophy and/or Greek language and literature.

The salary for a full-time appointment will be in the range of £10,458 - £14,703 p.a. on the Lecturer Grade A Scale. Applications will also be welcome from candidates unable to take a full-time appointment but able to teach part-time in either of the fields mentioned.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Personnel Officer, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (Tel: 091 374 4587) to whom applications (three copies, including a full CV and the names of three referees) should be sent not later than Wednesday 30th May 1990.

Please quote reference 525.

# Priceless info for school leavers and graduates.

If it's your ambition to make adverts, headline news or even bouc' en croute, don't miss Directions 1990 - the largest Careers and Higher Education Fair of its kind.

From 28th-30th June, experts from a wide range of professions will be giving invaluable advice and guidance, in a series of free seminars at Olympia in London.

Discover what the future could have in store for you, at Directions 1990.

Book now - fill in the coupon below and send to: Kate Dawson, Trotman & Company, 12 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6UA. Tel (01) 081 from 6 May 940 5668.

**SEMINAR TIMETABLE**

THEURSDAY 28 JUNE	A	FRIDAY 29 JUNE	E	SATURDAY 30 JUNE	J
10.30 - 11.10 Enterprise in Higher Education		10.30 - 11.10 Careers in Public Relations		10.30 - 11.10 Why enter Higher Education	
11.30 - 12.10 Careers in Advertising	B	11.30 - 12.10 Why enter Higher Education	F	11.30 - 12.10 A Career in the Health Service	K
1.10 - 1.50 Teaching as a Career	C	1.10 - 1.50 Europe in 1992 - how will it affect students?	G	1.10 - 1.50 How Sponsorship works	L
3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Retailing	D	2.10 - 2.50 Careers in Retailing	H	2.10 - 2.50 Careers in Retailing	M
		3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Journalism	I	3.10 - 3.50 Careers in Hotel & Catering	N

**DIRECTIONS**  
CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR  
28th 29th & 30th June 1990 Grand Hall Olympia
**DIRECTIONS SEMINAR APPLICATION**

Please insert number of tickets required under relevant seminar box.

Seminar - A B C D E F G H I J K L M N

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

**OXFORD  
polytechnic**

Department of Hotel and Catering Management  
LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN HUMAN RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT FOR THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

REF: 194-GLC  
Salary Scale: 22,517 - 22,511

Applicants should have:  
• Either a degree in Hotel and Catering Management or the Social Sciences and, preferably, membership of the Institute of Personnel Management.

• Some teaching and/or industrial experience.

• A higher degree or research experience would be an advantage.

Responsibilities include:

• Contributing to the teaching of Human Resource Management, Industrial Relations and social aspects on a wide variety of courses in Hospitality Management.

• Contributing to course development and administration.

• Conducting research and consultancy.

• In-service training can be provided in teaching/learning.

REF: 195-GLC  
Salary Scale: 22,117 - 22,511

Applicants should have:

• A good honours degree in Hospitality Management or an equivalent qualification.

• Significant managerial experience in the Hospitality Industry.

Responsibilities include:

• Consultancy project management.

• Contribution to teaching and/or research projects.

• Some teaching and/or programmes in Hotel and Catering Management.

• Initiation of consultancy contact with industry.

The post is available for one calendar year, starting date to be agreed, and may be renewable.

Two POSTGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN ACCOUNTING FOR THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

REF: 196-GLC  
Salary Scale: 21,027 - 21,621

Applicants should have:

• A good honours degree in Hotel and Catering Management or an associated business discipline.

Responsibilities include:

• Research in Accounting and Hospitality Accounting. The successful applicant will be required to register for a higher degree with the CIMA.

• A teaching element of up to six hours per week.

Two posts are available from 1 September 1990, renewable annually to a maximum of three years.

Two POSTGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR WITH REFERENCE TO THE HOTEL INDUSTRY

REF: 197-GLC  
Salary Scale: 21,027 - 21,621

Applicants should have:

• A good honours degree in Hotel and Catering Management or a related business and an interest in human resource management or consumer behaviour.

or

• A good honours degree in social science disciplines and an interest in or experience of the hospitality industry.

Responsibilities include:

• Further research or a programme of research on employment in the hospitality industry or on social aspects of the hospitality industry within the department. The successful applicant will be expected to register for a higher degree with the CIMA.

• A teaching element of up to six hours per week.

Two posts are available from 1 September 1990, renewable annually to a maximum of three years.

Closing date for all applications: 10th May 1990.

Further details of these posts available from the Personnel Department, Oxford Polytechnic, Queen Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0EP. Telephone: 081 223 2227. 24 hour answer phone service.

All full-time posts open to job sharing unless specifically excluded.

**WORKING FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**BRENTWOOD SCHOOL (H.M.C.)**
**MATHEMATICS  
TEACHER**

Required for September, 1990, a graduate teacher to join a large and successful MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT and to teach the subject up to GCSE Higher Level. Salary according to the Brentwood Salary Scale.

Applications, giving curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to

The Headmaster, Brentwood School, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AS.

**KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY**

of King's College London  
AND THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHIATRY

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Joint Department of Psychological Medicine and Dentistry and the Institute of Psychiatry. The Senior Lecturer will be concerned in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. Exceptional research opportunities are available and the person appointed will be encouraged to develop their own research expertise.

He/she will receive a Honorary Clinical Contract and will carry out clinical work in adult psychiatry in the new Integrated Clinical Service of King's College Hospital and the Maudsley/Bethlem Royal. Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Senior Lecturer/Consultant scale.

Details of the post and the application procedure can be obtained from the Personnel Department, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry on 071-835 3511.

Informal information can be obtained by telephoning Professor Robin Murray on 071-703 6091.

Applications including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees should be sent to the Secretary of the School, Bouverie Road, London, SE5 9PJ by 25 May 1990.

**TRENT COLLEGE**

The Governors of Trent College invite applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of BURSAR

which will become vacant on the 1st January, 1991 on the retirement of the present Bursar. A Boarding and Day School, in membership of the H.M.C., with 610 pupils aged 11-18 years with 245 in co-educational With Form.

Particulars of the Appointment and an Application Form may be obtained from:

The Headmaster, Trent College, Derby Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4AD.

The closing date for applications is Friday 26th May, 1990.

**ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL**

(Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul)  
50 St Savio's Road  
St Leonards-on-Sea  
East Sussex TN38 0AT

Telephone: (0424) 432120

Group 4 (S)

Applications are invited from practising Catholics who are qualified and suitably experienced teachers for the post of Deputy Headteacher (Education) of the successful and

## EDUCATION

# Learning to write plain English

Reports from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools are often unfathomable.

Douglas Broom assesses new moves to make them more palatable for the parent-governor

**W**hen it comes to baffling parents with educational jargon, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools (HMI) have a record that is second to none. But at a conference in Sheffield held last week, the arch-obfuscators may yet turn out to be the parents' best allies in the continuing search for real parental power in schools.

Critics have often said that the inspectorate's prose reflects its Victorian origins. But even that fails to do justice to some of the truly awful expressions that have infested its reports.

Descriptions of the "quality of perceived learning experiences" have died with statements that teaching was "satisfactory or worse" for sheer incomprehensibility.

The desire to praise what is good, even in a school which is otherwise plainly awful, has led to accusations that the resulting reports can tell things to all manner.

In the days when school governors were hand-picked by local authorities, often for their knowledge of the education system, all this amounted to a minor irritant. But today's elected parent-governors find the lack of clarity infuriating.

As lay folk entrusted with considerable authority over teaching and the curriculum, they need someone to help provide a yardstick by which to measure the effectiveness of schools.

As last week's conference showed, things are changing. Thirty inspectors from all over Britain were brought together to discuss how to write for a lay audience. For a body steeped in civil Service traditions of confidentiality and official invincibility, the very calling of the conference was a significant development.

Although the HMI would deny having kept anything but an open mind on education for a century and a half, it is far from being an open organisation when dealing with those outside its ranks.

Individual inspectors, of whom there are 480 in England and Wales, are not permitted to talk to the Press. Neither are they permitted to allow themselves to be photographed. In the past, too, there was a reluctance to talk



What is happening in our schools? Pupils may know, but inspectors' reports have often left parents confused. Now there are signs that inspectors want to be understood

about their reports to anyone other than colleagues. Now there are moves to encourage inspectors to attend governors' meetings to explain their findings.

Operated on strictly hierarchical principles, the inspectorate subjects all its reports to a lengthy process of scrutiny and rewriting. One senior inspector confided:

"When I finally saw my report in print it bore hardly any relation to what I had written."

Most reports emerge shorn of controversy and as balanced as they can be between criticism and praise. Some, however, cannot avoid harsh words.

Earlier this year, the inspectors produced their most strongly worded document, condemning shortcomings at Hackney Free and Parochial School in Bethnal Green. From graffiti to homework, the inspectors pulled no punches as they spelled out what was wrong with the 700-pupil comprehensive.

Far from attracting professional opprobrium, their frankness earned them praise.

"We are very aware of the need to be clear and understandable in what we write," said inspector Charles Whitaker, who organized the Sheffield conference. "I am not sure that all the criticisms in the past have been entirely justified, but we do recognize the need to make ourselves understood. Part of that process is to define our readership."

As interest in education has widened, so has the audience for HMI reports. Ann Holt, the

director of Action on Governor Information and Training (AGIT), says the inspectorate still has a long way to go in responding to the change.

At one rural primary school in Devon, the head told me that none of her parent governors could read. "So how on earth are they supposed to understand HMI reports?" she asked.

"Governors feel very exposed and very much under pressure in their new roles. They need HMI to give them something against which they can measure the success or failure of their schools. Many of them feel lost." One of the inspectors at Sheffield, anonymous because of the rules on publicity, said he would be willing

## INSPECTOR SPEAK

to talk to a governing body about what he had written. "But I would not be willing to talk about individual teachers. The discussion would have to be based on the report, in which we do not discuss the performance of individual staff," he said.

Ms Holt took a much tougher line. "I think HMI are going to have to be prepared to go into a governing body meeting and justify what they have written," she said. "Governors will not just accept assertions, they will want the evidence to back them up."

James Hammond, the former chairman and now treasurer of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, agrees that HMI must be willing to explain

system would be used to award merit pay rises to good teachers and sack bad ones, a fact you might infer from the following:

*Inevitably, a spectrum of teacher performance will emerge from any such activity and poor as well as exceptionally good performance will be identified. It is not clear how far such judgements might be used also to inform decisions about rewards or measures affecting teachers experiencing difficulties. The effective operation of a national system will require clarity.*

Finally, an extract from a 1985 HMI survey of history teaching, which is poised tantalizingly on the threshold of comprehensibility:

*Although individual historical skills are sequential in that they contain steps of increasing difficulty, teachers know that pupils often leapfrog, sometimes quite unpredictably, intermediate processes to demonstrate skills at an unexpectedly advanced level.*

what they do in terms which parents can understand.

"The average parent finds HMI reports quite difficult to fathom," he said. "The reports need to highlight in a simple way what the problems are, and how these need to be addressed. A kind of action summary, spelling out in a form which a lay person can understand what is to be done and over what time scale, would help no end."

He believes that reports will always err on the side of dullness, if only because of the need to be even-handed.

"The trouble is that those who want to pretend that there are no problems can always find something to justify their beliefs. An action summary would remove

the opportunity to make HMI reports say what you want."

In fairness, it must be said that the content of HMI reports has slowly improved in recent years, particularly during the tenure of Eric Bolton as senior chief inspector. He has made it clear that reports should be clear and straightforward, and the initiative to improve their style and content launched at Sheffield has his blessing.

Indeed, he gave his own inspectors an object lesson in clarity in his annual report, published in February. The document had been compiled by a group of chief inspectors who put up a draft for his consideration, only to find that he took his red pen to the waffle, and sharpened its tone.

The result was a spate of newspaper headlines highlighting his blunt statement that 30 per cent of children were "getting a raw deal" from the state system.

The furor that followed, in which ministers sought to emphasize his other comments that more than two thirds of lessons were "good or better", only served to underline the dangers inherent in being too forthright.

However, parents and all those with the interests of education at heart must hope that the reaction will not inhibit this welcome move towards greater frankness and clarity.

If parent power is to become a reality, HMI's role as the impartial observer of the education scene will be crucial. Openness has clearly had its day.

■

said crossly that he should leave the room; he was a polytechnic man himself.

I was wrong again when they asked me what I would read with my secondary English literature class. Keats and Coleridge were horribly dirty words. The man from Education sucked in his breath in shocked surprise at Jane Austen and Shakespeare. None of that would really appeal to pupils, said the tutor. What modern American authors would I choose? What literature of ethnic minorities? What Caribbean literature? What foreign authors would appeal in translation?

I ventured, is not the job of the good teacher of English literature to introduce his or her pupils to the stars, to the authors they might not venture to read on their own, unprompted? The good teacher will make Shakespeare irresistible.

Any second-rate teacher can amuse a class with second-rate American trash, I said, and as for Caribbean or ethnic minority literature, it was not in the same league as our own, which should be read first. Homer should be read in translation because of his huge influence...

This was wrong, all wrong, and I, they said, old-fashioned and narrow-minded.

Finally, they asked about my experience with particular schools. I mentioned Winchester and Radley, but it was not allowed to finish. "No, no," one of them said, "we mean real schools."

I was shown out in ignominy, wrong in my clothes, wrong in my hair, wrong in my views, and with the extra handicap of having a degree in Classics.

■

## Mature Firsts

PROFESSOR R.F. FOSTER, head of the History Department at Birkbeck College, London University, took exception to the comments of Paul Cattigan, one of his students, in an article on this page April 9.

Mr Cattigan, who like all undergraduates at Birkbeck is a mature student, complained there had been no formal attempt to "break him in gently" or introduce him to the techniques of essay-writing.

Not so, Professor Foster says, adding: "In fact, this department, like others in Birkbeck, puts much time and effort into study skills. First-year students not only start their course with an induction week devoted to such exposition, but now also follow a Foundation Course throughout their first year intended to address exactly these difficulties."

Describing Mr Cattigan's comments as "both unfounded and unfair", Professor Foster notes that on two occasions in the past five years the best History Firsts in the university have been achieved by Birkbeck students.

■

## DIRECTIONS

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

DIRECTIONS, the biggest careers and higher education fair held in Britain, will be bigger than ever this year. Details released this week show that sixth-formers and graduates will be able to talk to representatives of 227 universities, polytechnics, colleges and leading companies when the exhibition opens at Olympia, west London, on June 28.

Among newcomers this year are 15 universities, including Aberdeen, Aston and St Andrew's, six polytechnics and five colleges of higher education.

Exhibiting for the first time are Bosch, Dixons, HMV, Marks & Spencer and Tesco.

As well as the chance to discuss courses and careers with institutions and companies, visitors to Directions will be able to consult impartial experts on their chosen career or field of study.

Directions, sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, runs until June 30 in the Grand Hall. Admission is free.

Douglas Broom

## Classic case of rejection

The Government is urging the mature to try a new career in teaching. Annis Garfield tells what happened when she answered the call

**B**eware of answering the Department of Education's call for more teaching recruits. Encouraged by the recruitment propaganda, I thought my application to a teacher training college was perfectly respectable.

Glossy and expensively produced leaflets produced for TASC (Teaching as a Career) and the Central Office of Information declared that the need for graduate teachers had never been greater; that there were unlimited opportunities for career development; that mature people should switch to a new career in teaching; that experience of other jobs was of great value; that experience with children and young people would be a huge asset; that teaching was the ideal career for a married woman with children...

So, armed with a Cambridge degree in Classics and a varied range of work experience in the 20

years that have elapsed since the day I graduated, including uncompleted solicitor training, private teaching, 13 years as an O and A level examiner for the Oxford and Cambridge Board, and a great deal of voluntary work with children, this married woman with children aged 12 and 10 registered with the Graduate Teacher Training Registry and applied to take the Post Graduate Certificate of Education.

My application was rejected. And this is the third year that it has been rejected. Nobody, after all, wants me to train to be a teacher, and it is very depressing.

In 1985 it was depressing to be rejected by the Oxford Polytechnic as a woman whose qualifications were considerably less than mine. In 1986 it was so depressing not to be asked for interview anywhere that I gave up applying for two years. But this year, when I have

heard and read little else but the near national disaster of the teacher shortage, I decided to renew my application to teach. This year, however, has been the most depressing of all.

When I telephoned to ask the admissions tutor at a Midlands college how my first-choice application to his college was progressing, he told me that it was not allowed to be considering my application further.

When I asked why, he said that my degree course was not relevant

to the primary curriculum, that he had many far better qualified applicants than me, that I could compensate for the inappropriateness of my Classics degree by a year's hands-on experience in a primary school.

I pointed out that without a teaching qualification I was not allowed to teach in a primary school. He explained that he had meant experience as a playground assistant or dinner lady.

It must be said that I was

affronted to be told that a year as a

playground attendant or a dinner lady might compensate for the inadequacy of my Cambridge Classics degree.

He also said that a degree in craft would have been more appropriate than one in classics. Craft, indeed. As if you could read craft at Cambridge.

But on to the next rejection. This was from a university which at least summoned me for an interview. This being only the second interview in three years of applications, it must be counted a triumph in itself.

But everything I said or did was wrong, not wrong by normal standards, but wrong by those alternative standards to which anyone hoping for acceptance in teacher training must conform.

My first mistake was to

brush my hair and wear a

sober dress. The correct

thing would have been fashionably weird hair and denim.

The second was to mistake the English tutor for the caretaker; as he was not wearing denim I assumed he was not on the academic side and, being in ill-fitting, well-slept-in clothes, that he must be from

males.

The other interviewer was a man from Education, wearing the obligatory jeans and denim jacket over a very open-necked shirt revealing gold chains. His hair cascaded down the sides of his head in luxuriant waves but was short and spiky on top.

The English tutor was discussing the Oxford and Cambridge examination boards with me. The man from Education glowered sulkily for some time and then



Gilbert Jessup on moves to end the traditional divide between education and training

## The rot at the apple's core

Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) propose a list of core skills that could be incorporated into A/AS levels, as well as more general skills.

The essence of core skills is transferability: they are skills which can be applied to different circumstances. The core now proposed by the NCVQ consists of six skills which are generally agreed to be essential; vital for life and work in the next century.

They are: problem solving, communication, personal skills (defined as self-awareness, independence and the ability to get on with others), numeracy, information technology, and modern languages.

Skills in employment, and has been exploring with the NCVQ the possibility of identifying core skills which are common to both A/AS levels and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).

The NCVQ report on core skills, published last week, fully supports the NCVQ's recommendations, but goes somewhat further in spelling out how they can be specified both in A/AS levels and in NVQs. It also emphasizes that a joint development programme, involving the NCVQ, the Schools Examination and Assessment Council and NCVQ, will be necessary. The idea is to create a framework of core skills which would stand separate from A/AS

levels, NCVQs and any other qualifications, but within which these skills could be assessed, and recorded as credits in any qualification system.

Both the NCVQ and NCVQ identify the need for a single record of achievement for use in schools and vocational training to record achievement in core skills. This could take the form of an extended version of the National Record of Vocational Achievement, which NCVQ introduced nearly two years ago. It could be the beginning of a genuinely common national record, accommodating schools' records of achievement, National Curriculum attainments, core skills and

NVQ units and qualifications.

The need for such a vehicle to link school to further education and continuing learning has been widely recognized in recent years.

The core skill initiative and the introduction of a National Record could do much to start building bridges between our education and training systems, which have remained divided for too long.

Such a division is particularly unhelpful at a time when there is a general feeling that we must put more effort into raising the standards of education and training, and the competence of the workforce in the UK, if we are to catch up and then keep pace with international competition.

Young people have the right to a more coherent provision of learning opportunities. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

• The author is the director of research, development and information at the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

## NOTICEBOARD

## Art of being a citizen

SCHOOLS are being urged to teach children as young as five about their democratic rights and responsibilities in order to prepare them for a life of "active citizenship". The call comes from the Politics Association, which represents teachers of politics in schools and colleges. The association says that schools should be aware of the need to encourage "citizenship" in all areas of the curriculum.

All children should learn to understand basic concepts such as law, freedom, justice and obligation, as well as studying political institutions, the association says. The fruits of such study, it argues, include developing the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion, to recognize bias and to organize and express ideas.

### What's cooking

THE Central

## PREVIEW

TODAY Art &amp; Auctions

● TUESDAY Theatre &amp; Cabaret ● WEDNESDAY Rock, Jazz &amp; World Music ● THURSDAY Opera, Dance &amp; Books ● FRIDAY Classical Music

The Times Preview features a different area of the arts each day Monday to Friday, as indicated above, including events in the following seven days. Plus the Cinema Guide

## ART EXHIBITIONS

David Lee

## LONDON

**GEORGE FULLARD (1923-1973):** Figure paintings and collages by a neglected sculptor who was among the first British artists to incorporate found objects into his work. Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 1723). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-12.30pm, free, until June 1. From Tues.

**WILLIAM BROOKER (1918-1983):** Deceptively simple and ordered still-life paintings and drawings. Austin/Desmond Fine Art, Pledg Yard, WC1 (01-242 4443). Mon-Fri, 10.30am-6.30pm, Sat 10am-2.30pm, free, until May 24. From Tues.

**POLITICAL POSTERS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR:** Recent graphics from the protest movements and new democratic movements. Victoria & Albert Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (01-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5.30pm, free, until July 1. From Wed.

**GOYA'S MAJAS:** The Naked and Clothed Majas, two of Goya's most intriguing paintings which show versions of the same woman in the same pose, are on temporary loan from the Prado in Madrid. An opportunity not to be missed. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (01-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30pm, free, until July 1. From Wed.

**PHILIP DAVIES:** Recent figurative paintings. Christopher Hull Gallery, 17 Merton Street, SW1 (01-235 0500). Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, until May 25. From Wed.

**RITUALS:** Paintings 1948-68 which incorporate hand prints, by Tony Stubbing (1921-1983), who recently featured in a new acquisitions show at the Tate.

England & Co, 14 Needham Road, W1 (01-221 0417). Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm, free, until June 1. From Thurs.

**JIRI KOLAR:** Collages and picture poems by a Czech dissident artist, which make free use of illustrations of famous paintings. Albemarle Gallery, 18 Albemarle Street, W1 (01-355 1880). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 11am-1pm, free. From Wed.

**SIR EDUARDO PAOLOZZI:** (See picture below right) The Scottish Gallery, 28 Cork Street, W1 (01-287 2121). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-5.30pm, free, until May 26. From Wed.

**BETWEEN DIMENSIONS:** Works by eight abstract artists, including Michael Kirker and Alan Johnston, selected by critic Mel Gooding. Curzon Cinema 4, 4 Windmill Street, W1 (01-532 1450). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10.30am-1pm, free, until June 2. From Fri.

## CONTINUING

**LUCIAN FREUD, FRANK AUERBACH, RICHARD DEACON:** Painting and sculpture from the largest British private collection. Sketch Collection, 9th Boundary Road, NW8 (01-624 8229). Fri-Sat, midday-6pm, free, until November.

**IN OUR TIME:** Photographs by Magnum agency photographers, Carter-Brown, Capa, Salgado, etc. Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0-201 0272). Daily, 10am-6pm, 24 (concs), and May 6.

**VIGNELLI:** An exhibition of graphics, products and furniture design. Royal College of Art (Henry Moore) Gallery, Kensington Gore, SW7 (01-584 5202). Daily, 10am-6pm, free, until May 12.

**FAKE? THE ART OF DECEPTION:** Six hundred fakes and originals from all periods, including Van Meegeren's infamous "Vermeers".

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2165

## ACROSS

- 1 Dutch potato spirit (6)
- 5 Highland dress (4)
- 9 Bank clerk (7)
- 10 Barrage balloon (5)
- 11 Making infertile (13)
- 13 Recruit (5)
- 15 Steersman (5)
- 17 Command withdrawn (1,5,7)
- 21 Calabash (5)
- 22 Principled (7)
- 23 Scale (4)
- 24 Ninepins (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Foot cloths (5)
- 2 Rapidity (5)
- 3 Cropping up (7)
- 4 Henry VII throne pre-tender (6,7)
- 12 Pinnacle (3)
- 16 Egg cells (3)
- 6 Inaugural (7)
- 13 Cadger (7)
- 18 Uncivil (4)
- 7 Head crest (3,4)
- 14 Defended outpost (7)
- 19 Surpass (5)
- 8 New Test "father" (4)
- 15 Casual firing (3,4)
- 20 Anchorage (5)

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## CONCERTS

## THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC &amp; DRAMA

## BARBICAN

SUNDAY 6th MAY 8PM  
PENNY BLACK STAMP  
10TH ANNIVERSARY  
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ROSSINI CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA & SOLOISTS  
MOZART, SCHUBERT,  
TECHNIKOVSKY, VERDI, STRAUSS  
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THE KIROV BALLET

8 June - 7 July

COLISEUM 036 3161 07 240

370 2264 00 240 7200 00

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THE KIROV BALLET

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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR  
AND GILLIAN MAXEY  
• CRITIC'S CHOICE PETER WAYMARK

6.00 Cenex  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Bill Dando 8.55 Regional news and weather  
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air: Views comment on the weekend's television programmes  
9.20 Gloria Live: Topical stories aired from a studio audience presented by Gervia Haniford.  
10.00 News and weather followed by The New Fred and Barney Show  
10.25 Children's BBC begins with Playdays (r) 10.50 Supply (r)  
10.55 Five to Eleven: Patricia Routledge with readings from Julian of Norwich  
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air: Includes a location report from All Creatures Great and Small  
12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live 12.25 Regional news and weather  
1.00 News with Philip Hayton: Weather 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) 1.50 Matchpoint: Tennis-style scoring quiz game presented by Angela Rippon  
2.15 The Six Million Dollar Man: Heroes from the adventure series 3.05 Sunday includes Benefits Lesson 24 on a Sunday lunch for six 3.30 The Paul Panther Show (r)  
3.50 Bananaman (r) 3.55 The Snorks (r) 4.10 The Crack-Cat Show (r) 4.35 Droids (r)  
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Blue Peter: The Duchess of York encourages children to

take part in the Sports Aid Foundation National Fun Run Day on Sunday. (Ceefax)  
5.35 Neighbours (r): Ceefax Northern Ireland: Sportswise and Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Moira Stuart: Weather 6.30 Regional news magazines: Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Wogan, with the pop group New Kids on the Block; Tupp; and, via satellite from California, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the Peanuts cartoon character 7.35 Best of British: More clips from the film of Lord Law Grade, proving that on the way his hair has turned white happily to the big screen. (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Double First 8.00 In Sickness and in Health: Johnny Speight's Alf Garnett takes his bigotry and monologues to Australia (r) (Ceefax)  
8.30 Joint Account: Limp role-reversal comedy starring Peter Egan and Hannah Gordon. (Ceefax)  
9.00 Party Election Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Democrats 9.05 News with Michael Buerk: Regional news and weather 9.35 Panorama: Doctoring the Reforms: The Government losing its nerve over its National Health Service reforms? 10.15 Action Vice: Gun-and-sun police drama 11.05 The Rock 'n' Roll Years: This curious concoction of news clips and pop songs reaches 1961, when the Soviet Union's Yuri Gagarin was the first man in space. Berlin got a new



Yuri Gagarin wins a first for man (11.05pm) wall and the charts were dominated by The Shadows, Roy Orbison, Ricky Nelson and Helen Shapiro (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Conference of the Liberal Democrats 11.35 Action Vice: New Developments 12.00 News at One with John Suchet: Weather 1.20 Thematics News and weather 1.30 Home and Away (r) 1.30 Thematics News and weather 7.00 Just for Laughs: Variable selection of clips from old British comedy films 7.30 Coronation Street: Kevin takes a holiday and finds out the lives of two of his friends; and an angry husband is out for revenge. (Oracle)

12.10 Playbox: Educational programme for the under-fives (r) 12.30 Home and Away: Australian drama series about a couple and their five foster children 1.00 News at One with John Suchet: Weather 1.20 Thematics News and weather 1.30 Hollywood Sports: Serial in which the viewer chooses the storyline 2.00 A Country Practice: Australian medical drama serial set in the remote sheep town of Deep Valley 2.30 Magnifico: Private investigator series starring Tom Selleck as a sun-kissed Hawaii detective 3.25 Thematics News and weather 3.30 Families: Second week of the new British soap focusing on two families divided by more than 10,000 miles 4.00 Coconuts: Cartoon set on an exotic tropical island 4.05 What-a-Mess: Adventures of an Afghan hound puppy. (Oracle) 4.20 The Real Ghostbusters (r)

4.40 Docudrama: Same Difference — All About Twins: The experiences, both amusing and serious, of a number of sets of twins between the ages of five and 17. The programme reveals that not all twins are identical and that some are not particularly close. Those that are sometimes feel each other's pain while others cannot live in the same house.

5.10 Fun & Games: Bubbly Rob Buckman and captivating Celia Hoyles prove that you don't have to be a mathematical genius to solve puzzles

5.40 News with Sue Carpenter: Weather 5.55 Thematics Help: Jackie Spreckley encourages viewers to take part in Environment Week

6.00 Home and Away (r)

6.30 Thematics News and weather

7.00 Just for Laughs: Variable selection of clips from old British comedy films

7.30 Coronation Street: Kevin takes a

holiday and finds out the lives of two of his friends; and an angry husband is out for revenge. (Oracle)

8.00 Strike It Lucky: Michael Barnaby introduces this week's edition of the high-tech, light-hearted quiz show

8.30 World in Action: As Parliament prepares to debate new controls on Britain's dogs, the gritty

documentary series investigates the obsession to own a powerful dog. The programme was made over a period of three weeks, filming with the police and the RSPCA's specialist dog team in London who are now

specifically trained and equipped with "hot gear" to deal with dogs like pit bulls and Rottweilers

9.00 Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner (1933). Peter Ustinov stars as Hercule Poirot in a fast-paced version of a vintage Christie novel *Lord Edgware Dies*. You can tell that the story, originally set in the Thirties, has been updated because it has Poirot travelling to London to appear on a chat

show. The little grey cells are called into action when a titled Englishman is found dead, shortly after his film star wife has publicly asked for a divorce at a dinner party. Also starring Faye Dunaway and David Suchet (who has since proved to be a more convincing suspect than Ustinov).

Dinner at Lou Antonio. Continues after the news

10.00 Party Election Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Democrats

10.05 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald: Weather 10.35 Thematics News and weather

10.40 Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner continued

11.25 The Struggle for Democracy: Patrick Watson examines how democracy in a small Mexican village is threatened by a corrupt Mexican city politics and the drug war

11.55 Strike It Lucky: Michael Barnaby, a reformed alcoholic who is now an insurance investigator — tonight being pursued by the FBI who think he is a mobster

12.45am Sportsworld Extra: Tony Francis introduces tennis from the Family Circle Cup in the United States in which the 14-year-old prodigy Jennifer Capriati met the veteran Martina Navratilova. Plus a round-up of the weekend's football at home and abroad

Followed by News headlines 1.45 Spy: Polished spook espionage drama starring Robert Culp and Bill Conti

2.45 The Comedy Store: More alternative comic talent introduced by Chris Tarrant

3.00 Eurythmics: "Savage": From Paris, Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart perform Savage — The Complete Concept. Followed by News headlines

4.00 60 Minutes: Interviews and investigations from the United States 5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

7.10 Open University: Data Modelling — The Wood from the Trees. Ends at 7.35 8.00 News 8.15 Weather

8.30 Four-Legged Soldiers: The work of the Royal Veterinary Corps (r) 8.00 Living on the Land: A portrait of a Yorkshire estate owner (r)

8.25 Daytime on Two: German for beginners 9.40 Money and values 10.05 For the very young 10.15 Musical version of an Anderson fairytale 10.40 Working for British Telecom 11.00 Putting together a Photofit 11.20 Home economics 11.40 Problems for 10 to 12-year-olds 11.45 Computers in the classroom 11.50 Emergency first aid 12.00 Science for the young 12.15 Europe's post-war problems 12.35 Maths for nine to 12s 12.50 Children talk about weddings 1.00 A level biology 1.20 Green Clews 1.40 A Victorian childhood

2.00 News and weather followed by Words and Pictures 2.15 Songs of Praise from East Belfast (r) 2.50 To Cast a Bell: In 1973 a church bell was made to the specifications of a medieval monk (r)

3.00 News and weather followed by The Last Place on Earth: Life in the remote Tibetan village of Konchok in the kingdom of Zanskar where life goes on much the same as it has for the last 1,000 years (r) 3.30 News, regional news and weather

4.00 Junior Darts: Tony Gibbons introduces highlights from the British Youth Darts Championship. The commentators are Sid Waddell and Tony Green

4.30 Westminster Select Committee: The Commons Home Affairs Committee report on the work of the Crown Prosecution Service, presented by Vivien White

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5.00 Film: The Sun Shines Bright (1953, b/w)

• Delightfully unassuming picture from John Ford with the penit roly-poly Charles Winninger as Judge Priest, standing for re-election in his old Kentucky town where memories of the Civil War do not. This is Ford in his mellow, affectionate, and sentimental vein, celebrating traditional America in a way that film-makers of the more cynical 1980s and 1970s could not. Nor would Stéphane Foch's goggling Negro have passed muster in a later, racially-sensitive era. But simple humanity infuses beautifully staged Fordian set-pieces, such as the independence Day ball and the funeral of the prostitute.

6.30 EBB II begins with That Was Then, This Is Now. A look at the multi-talented Joe Jackson, once the "angry man" of the pop world 7.00 La Carrera: The Pan American road race from

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6.30 EBB II begins with That Was Then, This Is Now. A look

# Rover lays off 1,500 as US sales disappoint

By Kevin Eason and Staff Reporters

NEARLY 1,500 car workers at the Rover plant at Cowley, Oxford, are being laid off on full pay for three weeks — the third series of shutdowns on Rover 800 production lines in nine months.

The company is halting assembly of its flagship executive model for 13 working days in an attempt to reduce stockpiles caused by poor export sales in the United States, where the car is known as the Rover Sterling. The latest layoffs — in the weeks starting May 8, June 18 and July 16 — will bring the number of days of lost production since last October to 53.

Rover said further shutdowns could not be ruled out: "It is no secret that the Sterling had a difficult launch in the States and that has been compounded by the bottom dropping out of the US executive sector for European-built models."

"We think we have halted the decline in sales and are just about holding our own but it is still a fight for every registration," Rover said. The company wanted its cars to be "factory fresh" and would "steadfastly refuse" to build cars for stock.

"With an expensive model like the Rover 800 we try to keep supply lines as short as possible so that no part of the chain is overstocked. We don't want money tied up in a car which is not earning."

The company said there was no threat to the future of the 800 series, which is still one of the best-selling executive cars in the UK. During the shutdowns workers receive full basic pay but miss out on bonus earnings. Unions and

management say that to cut production, layoffs are preferable to slowing line speeds because the latter throws up surplus labour.

More than 3,000 workers building the new version of the Metro will recognize little of their Birmingham factory in the cinema vision of Mr Ridley Scott, director of such films as *Alien* and *Blade Runner*. Mr Scott directed the advertisement for the new car, in which Rover has invested £200 million; the advertisement will be seen on television later this week.

For the first time in more than 10 years Rover decided to return to the cinema for its advertising of the Metro, its best-selling model. That meant hiring a leading film director, and Mr Scott, a Briton, was selected.

The Metro is given futuristic treatment in the campaign — a one-minute version of which will be shown on television — filmed at Shepperton Studios in Middlesex.

Workers have been given tickets to preview showings of the advertisements in two cinemas in Birmingham tomorrow night, a day before the new Metro is launched.

A 24-hour working day on the K-series engine assembly line, which feeds the Metro production plant, could be approved tomorrow.

Rover said last night: "The Metro is a car which has been very popular indeed in British motor-buying culture and will remain so. Our advertising campaign is aiming to add a new audience and we believe young people will find the revised line-up of new Metro very desirable indeed."

The trouble is that we do not have a national grid of water. Shortages are often very localized, and there is little we can do about them," South West Water said. The company is examining daily whether to impose drought restrictions.

Mr Stuart Derwent, water manager of the Sussex division of Southern Water, said: "We are relying on having a normal wet and miserable English summer. If we have another heatwave, then there will be problems."

Farmers claim the mild weather and lack of rain has already damaged the fruit, barley and oil seed rape crops as early growth was hit by late frosts. Mr Ted Shepherd, chairman of Lincolnshire National Farmers Union, said: "If we don't get some rain soon the crops will not take up the nitrogen that has been put on them and ear development will be poor."

The AA reported traffic jams on routes to the coast and around safari parks, zoos and theme parks.

## Nasa grapples with space telescope snag

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

ENGINEERS were still trying to fix a faulty communications antenna on the Hubble Space Telescope yesterday as the Shuttle Discovery which deployed it returned safely to earth.

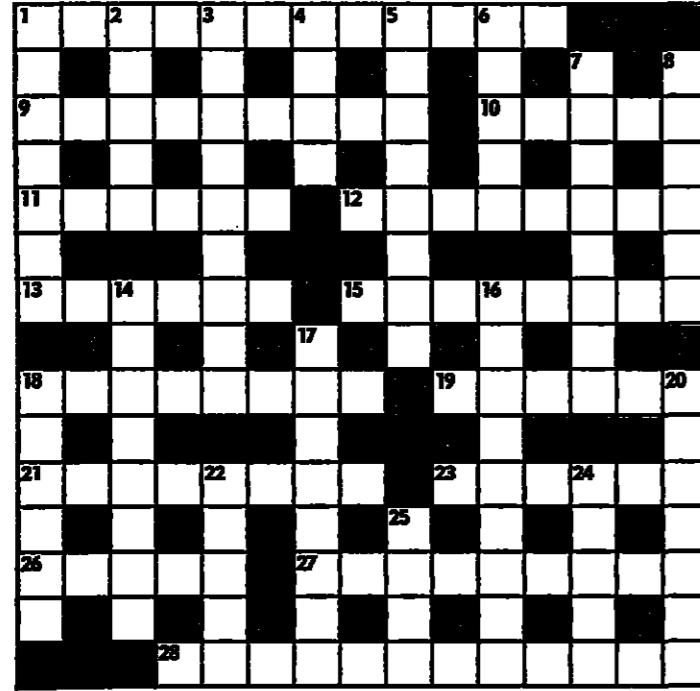
The telescope, dogged by problems since it separated from the shuttle five days ago, this week aims to send back to Earth the first pictures gathered in its quest to extend the human view of the universe.

Engineers said they hoped the \$1.5 billion (£900 million) telescope would be able to carry out its tasks even if the antenna problem remained

unresolved. The crew of five on Discovery returned to Earth yesterday after placing the telescope, launched seven years behind schedule, in an orbit 380 miles high. The Hubble Space Telescope is half a billion times more powerful than the human eye.

Astronomers will examine the pictures sent back for proof of the Big Bang theory of the universe's origins. The first picture is expected to show a group of stars in the southern sky. Experts have warned that the image could be blurred as the telescope "learns" how to focus.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,281



### ACROSS

- The regular players are standing firm (5,7).
- Control gained by party man with nice manoeuvring (9).
- Seat to set in the sun (5).
- An element of decoration in front of a capital (6).
- Byron's lipless descendant (8).
- Live in if the fare's ideal (6).
- An armada or two permitted (8).
- Game seaman, first-class (4-4).
- Putting a light in the garden sounded asonic (6).
- Deface the label attached to a Turk's cap (8).
- Enhanced the appearance? That's not true (4,2).
- He wants clean jumble (5).
- Lay at the door of a property (9).
- People dependent on public transport (5-7).

### DOWN

- Alcoholic drink is for the non-driver (4-3).
- Getting over-poetic about marine car-shell (5).
- The man who could lay his hands on a fortune! (4,5).
- Is responsible for snow-clearance (4).
- Meadows in unswilled environs delight (8).
- An upside-down home fit only for pigs — disgusting (5).
- Quip about a top man one can make in company (8).
- The way to get in some exercise and acquire a heavenly body (6).
- Division to give voice about all times (8).
- Many on a train may appear in the pink (9).
- Prospect for gold in Central America (8).
- Iron man's woman (6).
- Lower price for papers under rising journalist (7).
- Representative of preservationists seen after a time (5).
- Dust to be arranged — with point or foil (5).
- City-centre church causing some irritation (4).

### Answers on page 22

### AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0886 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**London & SE traffic, roadworks**  
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 791  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T... 733  
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736  
National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard), 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

## England wilts under a spring sun

PETER TRIENNICK



One of thousands of visitors to Hyde Park, central London, soaking up the sun yesterday, while below, the beach at Worthing, West Sussex

Continued from page 1

fall was 7 per cent of the average for the past 30 years, and at Gatwick airport 11 per cent. Nowhere in England reached more than 50 per cent, but Western Scotland had 382 per cent of what would normally be expected.

The trouble is that we do not have a national grid of water. Shortages are often very localized, and there is little we can do about them," South West Water said. The company is examining daily whether to impose drought restrictions.

Mr Stuart Derwent, water manager of the Sussex division of Southern Water, said: "We are relying on having a normal wet and miserable English summer. If we have another heatwave, then there will be problems."

Farmers claim the mild weather and lack of rain has already damaged the fruit, barley and oil seed rape crops as early growth was hit by late frosts. Mr Ted Shepherd, chairman of Lincolnshire National Farmers Union, said: "If we don't get some rain soon the crops will not take up the nitrogen that has been put on them and ear development will be poor."

The AA reported traffic jams on routes to the coast and around safari parks, zoos and theme parks.

## Cafeteria benefits woo the workers

By Kevin Eason

PAY may no longer loom so large in the annual confrontation between employer and employee. Instead of constantly raising the pounds and pence to attract the best staff, companies are being told that employees want better benefits to reflect their lifestyles.

Older workers, now eagerly sought by anxious employers, may be more interested in pension benefits than a straight cash payment for their services. Married women may want extra time off to be with their children.

Companies, especially in the South-east, have been using the weight of the wage packet as a measure of reward for workers they want to attract and retain at a time of skill shortages. Personnel managers are being told, however, that flexible payment schemes could be the key to retaining staff at a time when they are being wooed by competitor companies with bigger wage packets.

The idea is to allow employees to choose from a remuneration "menu", which could include medical care, life insurance, pensions, savings schemes, a company car or a cash alternative.

In the United States, where "cafeteria benefits" — schemes which allow wide choice of payment from the menu — have become fashionable, workers can even buy back holiday time, even though the employer often charges double the employee's daily rate.

Writing for *Personnel Management*, Miss Carol Woodley, a senior manager in the actuarial and benefits consultancy division at Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte, says that as companies seek married women or older workers to cover for staff shortages, they might find that flexible deals are more attractive than straight offers of cash.

"It will be necessary to offer something special to attract and keep these new types of recruit, who have very different needs, and that something must be relevant to those needs. Flexible packages can be neat and attractive way of achieving this."

Miss Woodley says British companies have so ignored the flexible scheme because of "inertia, ignorance of the administration involved and tax complexity".

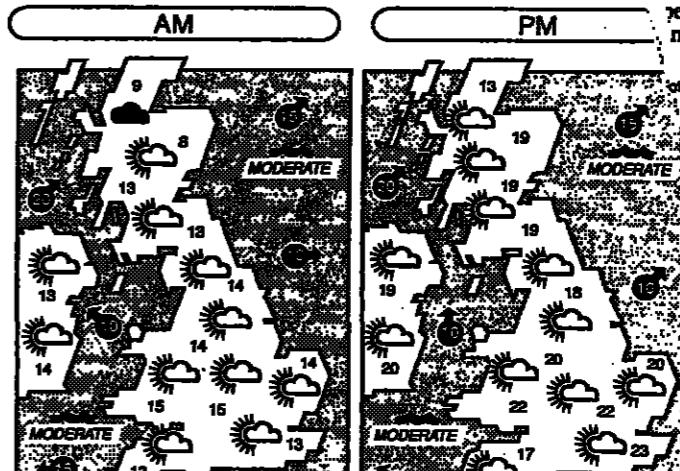
She believes, however, that the intensity of competition for workers will force companies to review their strategies and to open up reward packages directly related to what the employee needs most. Good packages will tend to produce an increased level of motivation, appreciation and, ultimately, motivation.

Rachael

series

regular

simple



### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.22pm to 5.28am

Edinburgh 8.31pm to 5.45am

Glasgow 8.32pm to 5.55am

Perth 8.39pm to 5.59am

Cardiff 8.45pm to 5.55am

Belfast 8.50pm to 5.55am

Sheffield 8.55pm to 5.55am

Nottingham 8.58pm to 5.55am

Leeds 8.59pm to 5.55am

Southampton 8.59pm to 5.55am

Southend 8.59pm to 5.55am

Brighton 8.59pm to 5.55am

Swindon 8.59pm to 5.55am

Exeter 8.59pm to 5.55am

Worthing 8.59pm to 5.55am

Weymouth 8.59pm to

## BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 30 1990

SECTION 2

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton  
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar

1.6365 (+0.0015)

W German mark

27427 (-0.0189)

Exchange index

86.7 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1658.7 (-53.9)

FT-SE 100

2106.6 (-80.5)

USM (Datstream)

132.39 (-5.36)

**RHM sales will fill coffers to £300m**

By Colin Campbell

**RANKS** Hovis McDougall is finalizing another round of non-core asset sales that will increase to £300 million the group's war chest with which to attack Europe.

RHM, in which Sir James Goldsmith, through his Sunningdale investment group, holds 29.9 per cent, recently sold its 70 per cent stake in Cerebos Pacific for £180 million, and confirms other asset sales are likely to follow.

It denies, however, that Sir James's decision to abandon Hoylake's bid for BAT has "concentrated RHM's mind." It insists it has long been policy to concentrate on basic flour-and-cake operations, and, by implication, to sell other selected interests.

It has been suggested that now Sir James has corporate time free, he will turn his attention to RHM—especially since the carrying costs of this original 40p-a-share investment currently outweigh the returns.

RHM shares were traded at 375p on Friday, at which level, Sir James will be showing a 6.25 per cent "paper loss."

RHM said in March the proceeds from Cerebos would reduce its pro forma gearing to less than 10 per cent, and the income would provide additional resources to develop in mainland Europe, Britain and the US. It added: "Although there are no immediate plans for substantial acquisitions in either of these regions, expansion in Europe is one of RHM's principal objectives."

The group intends, all things being equal, to close its current financial year, ending early September, with borrowings of about £50 million compared with shareholders' funds of roughly £900 million.

Non-core divisions would include chocolate, breakfast cereals, pasta and mush rooms, although no individual asset will be identified as being up for sale until employees have been told.

Negotiations on various asset sales are, however, understood to have reached a delicate stage.

**SIB issues investment guidelines**

By Lindsay Cook

**THE** Securities and Investments Board celebrates its second anniversary today and introduces 10 principles for the conduct of investment business.

The board has investigated 330 complaints of unauthorized trading, instigated 40 statutory investigations, and petitioned for and obtained compulsory winding-up orders in 11 cases. The investors' compensation scheme has paid out more than £3.3 million to 968 investors.

The 10 principles are intended to make investor protection comprehensible to all involved.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia S	2.285	2.325
Bahrain Pr	59.70	59.85
Canada S	1.87	1.87
France Fr	0.63	0.63
Germany Dm	2.97	2.97
Hong Kong S	12.37	12.47
Ireland Pr	1.21	1.21
Japan Yen	17.10	17.25
Netherlands Gld	3.21	3.23
New Zealand	1.25	1.26
South Africa R	6.10	6.20
Spain Pes	100.50	100.50
Turkey Lira	2.50	2.54
USA \$	1.715	1.715
Yugoslavia Dinar	24.50	17.50

For a more comprehensive bank rate table, apply to Bankers' Department, page 24 & 25.

**BT in \$550m paper loss on McCaw stake**

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

**BRITISH** Telecom is showing a \$550 million paper loss on one of its most strategic US investments, a 20 per cent stake in McCaw Cellular Communications, America's biggest mobile telephone operator.

McCaw's shares have sunk to a new low for the year of \$25.25, valuing BT's stake at \$902 million against the \$1.45 billion it has ploughed into the US over-the-counter company in 15 months.

British Telecom's investment is the equivalent of nearly 15p for each of its 6.05 billion shares in issue. Because of McCaw's two-tier voting structure, BT has only 5.36 per cent of the votes.

McCaw's shares fell further last week, a US business magazine survey disclosed that Mr Craig O McCaw, the company's founder, chairman and chief executive, who is aged 40, earned a salary, bonuses, and share options worth \$33.9 million last year.

BT has just paid him \$35 million as part of a deal to maintain its investment at 20 per cent in what had been expected to be America's fastest growing industry.

Papers filed with the SEC show the payment as part of a \$1.10 million deal this month in which the four McCaw brothers were paid \$60 million for selling BT 1,876 million of their A shares. BT bought a further 1,56 million from the company itself.

The deal was struck at \$31.98 a share, compared with \$41.50 per share BT paid for its original 32.4 million stake on January 19, 1989. BT is

already showing a \$25.67 million paper loss on its most recent purchase and a total loss of \$552 million.

In less than a year McCaw's shares fell from a peak of \$47.50. BT topped up its stake \$3.4 million selling 80,000 shares at between \$43.14 and \$43.38 for what he described as personal reasons.

Last year's salaries and long-term payments to three McCaw directors have produced sharp controversy. *Business Week/Standard & Poor's* annual US pay survey shows

Mr Craig McCaw, the president Mr Wayne Perry and the vice president Mr Rufus W Lumry, together earned \$92.7 million in pay, bonuses and options.

British Telecom said that whatever the short-term price performance of McCaw shares, BT's attitude towards McCaw now and when it first made its investment in 1989 is that its holding will be a "long-term investment."

It declined to comment on whether it is concerned about the paper loss on its investment, but has no intention of pulling out of McCaw.

• **Buenos Aires** Cable and Wireless is among seven international consortia qualified to bid for ENTEL, the state telecommunications company to be privatized in October (Reuters reports).

The others are: Telefónica de España, STET of Italy, GTE Corporation, Bell Atlantic and Nynex Corporation of the US and France Cable et Radio. Each must offer at least \$214 million cash, \$380 million financed over six years and \$3.5 billion in Argentine foreign debt certificates.

ENTEL has 2.9 million lines and employs 48,000. • **Automated Security (Holdings)**, the electronic security group, has concluded an agreement with Mercury Callpoint to develop teletelpoints.

Two for a hole-in-one: Graham (left) and Robert Bourne join the golfing drive

**Market project in the balance**

By Our City Staff

**BETHNAL** Green Neighbourhood Committee has postponed making its long-awaited decision over the £500 million redevelopment of East London's Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market until July.

The delay means that the planning application made by the Spitalfields Development Group will not be considered until after this week's local government elections.

Spitalfields lies predominantly within the borough of Tower Hamlets. Control of the council, currently determined by the Liberal mayor's casting vote, looks certain to pass to Labour at the election.

Under a Labour administration, the much-criticized office and shopping scheme is likely to face a far more hostile response. In the past Labour councillors have threatened the 12-acre site with compulsory purchase.

Assuming the expected opposition materializes, the planning application is likely to go to a public inquiry, putting any final decision in the hands of the Department of Environment and Mr Christopher Patten, the Environment Secretary.

The news will come as a blow to the development group, owned equally by Costain, BICC and the Swedish group SPP, after the latter's £500 million takeover of London &amp; Edinburgh Trust.

It had been hoping that a decision would be taken last Friday, with ratification by the policy and resources committee coming this week, a few days before the election. At present, the nine-member neighbourhood committee—all-powerful under Tower Hamlets' devolved structure—is still a Liberal majority of three.

Under a scheme drawn up by the American architect Swank Hayden Connell, SDG hopes to build 800,000 sq ft of offices and 200,000 sq ft of shops on the site. The market will become vacant at the end of this year, when the traders move to a new site, which is further east near Stratford. More than a third of the site would be used for social housing and open spaces.

Further delay of a scheme, already six years in the planning, is likely to prevent SDG's financial adviser Goldman Sachs from pressing ahead with its plans to find a fourth partner for the scheme.

**Ex-Lands swings a deal****EX-LANDS**, the mining company turned Saatchi investment vehicle, has signed an agreement giving it first final on golf course developments conceived by International Management Group (Matthew Bond writes).

The deal is seen as a crucial breakthrough for brothers Graham and Robert Bourne, who last month bought half the 29.9 per cent Ex-Lands stake owned by Charles and Maurice Saatchi, and who have become the company's joint chief executives.

Golf development is seen as an over-heated market. Mr Robert Bourne said: "Every farmer in the country seems to have put in a planning application for a golf course."

Elders shares have fallen 33 per cent from Aus\$2.40 at the beginning of the year to Aus\$1.74 in Australia on Friday.

After the referral, they sank to Aus\$1.66 in London.

Elders itself is in a relatively strong position financially, with net debt of only Aus\$200 million to Aus\$300 million.

The problem lies with Harlin, left with Aus\$3 billion of debt on its 55 per cent shareholding in Elders after being pressurized into making a \$3-a-share bid last year.

At present prices, buying the extra shares has resulted in a book loss to Harlin of more than Aus\$700 million. With interest holding costs, the loss would be almost Aus\$1 billion. The debt was financed partly by RHP, which has more than Aus\$850 million in Harlin preference shares.

Harlin urgently needs the cash that would have been coming from the reconstruction. Its only assets—shares and options in Elders—have a market value of about Aus\$2.1 billion to Aus\$2.2 billion, so it is about Aus\$800 million short of its debt.

One suggested solution would be to press Harlin to seek a buyer for its controlling stake in Elders, perhaps by tender. Another would be the sale of some of Elders' assets, such as its international brewing interests.

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A second big joint venture is Waterglade, the quoted developer, which was building a 330,000 sq ft Hamburg office complex with R&amp;T at a cost of \$45 million.

Mr Ronald Nathan, Waterglade's chief executive, said he will be seeking an urgent meeting with the receiver to find out how quickly R&amp;T's stake reverts to Waterglade.

A clearer picture of the full liabilities of Rush &amp; Toppings, the collapsed property developer, should emerge this week, as Touche Ross staff report their findings from weekend visits to the company's development sites. Touche Ross was appointed receiver last week by Lloyds Bank R&amp;T's main banker.

Of R&amp;T's 40 or so joint ventures, the biggest is the 350,000 sq ft retail scheme in Southport, Merseyside, where the company is in partnership with Sibec, Mr Mike Birchall's private group, and Hochfied, the West German group which has a 22.7 per cent holding in R&amp;T.

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TEMPUS

# No bid sunshine to lift Asda gloom

ASDA today closes the books on the year to April 1990, a period that has ended with the shares standing at their lowest for seven years. The group is expected to report pre-tax profits of £180 million against £247 million last time, according to Morgan Stanley. Recovery is expected to be slow, with profits of £200 million forecast for the year to April 1991.

The patience of shareholders has been sorely tried and they may seek to console themselves with hopes of a bid. The group's 5.2 per cent shareholders, the Canadian Belzberg brothers, are known to have approached Mr David Fisher of the Ashley group to lead a potential break-up bid, and at least one institutional shareholder was calling last year for the resignation of Asda's chief executive, Mr John Hardman.

But even at their current level of 92p there is not a great deal to tempt a break-up bidder. According to EIW in its latest *Value Investor*, it would be uneconomical, taking a five-year view, for a leveraged buyout team to pay more than 115p to 120p a share. At 120p the rate of return for any bidder would be 18.2 per cent over a five-year period.

A bidder would have to grapple with Asda's £900 million of debt, which looks set to rise to more than £1 billion this year. Other off-putting

factors include the soggy property market, which makes property disposals less attractive, a 25 per cent stake in MFI and Asda's strategy of combining food and non-food retailing. Allied Carpets is expected to have made no profit in the year just ended and the short-term outlook for the furniture market remains gloomy.

Asda is the only large food retailer making a virtue out of selling non-food in its stores. Tesco has been pulling out of non-food over the years and has felt the benefits. Mr George Davies's design skills have given the Asda clothing operations a boost, although clothing results for the year just ended are expected to be down on last time.

Assuming profits of £180 million for the year just ended, the shares are trading on a p/e ratio of just over nine, cheap, but not that cheap. Long-term holders of the shares should hold on a little longer and sell into any rally. For the rest there is no rush to buy.

## SD-Scicon

IT IS now a month since the computer systems and software group SD-Scicon was put "into play" via a footloose 25 per cent stake held by British Aerospace. So far, the silence is deafening.

With every penny SD-Scicon shares fall the more



Hard task ahead: John Hardman, Asda chief executive

ers and Scicon businesses. Mr Philip Swinstead, group chairman, feels that the worst is over and that an 8 per cent return on turnover is possible in the not too distant future. That indicates profits well in excess of £20 million compared with a 1989 total of £7.2 million, ravaged by restructuring costs and exceptional items.

The chairman's view is supported by independent forecasts from the brokers James Capel and County Natwest Woodmac, which see profits of £15 million this year rising to £19 million or more in 1991.

But the prospects of an agreed bid (it would certainly need to be blessed by the highly mobile staff) overshadow the upside in SD-Scicon shares on trading grounds. Capel has looked at recent deals including the AT&T purchase of Isetel and the likely sale value of Hoskyns plus a number of continental transactions.

Without taking an extreme line, the broker suggests that a reasonable take-out price is about 125p per share, a 74 per cent premium on the current market level.

When it comes, the bid could be a bloodless affair. Aside from BAE's 25 per cent, Morgan Grenfell clients hold 19 per cent, the Pru has 6 per cent and the board speaks for a further 9 per cent. Clearly SD-Scicon is a share to watch.

## Molins

MOLINS shareholders stick with their board like glue. They have been bid for five times in less than five years, and the latest attempt looks doomed to fail.

The offer on Molins' table is 252p cash from Leucadia — the New York group which took over Ivan Boesky's vehicle Cambrian & General Securities in 1989. Molins' tried and tested defence machine is again in action.

Molins shareholders should sit tight. Not only is the share

price, at 270p, comfortably above the offer, but it is still well below not only Molins' own valuation — but also well below what Olliff & Partners, Leucadia's own broker, once thought it should be.

Three months ago — at a time when Molins was fresh from seeing off a 230p-a-share bid from Sir Ron Brierley's IEP, Olliff published a circular on Molins concluding its worth was 485p a share.

The irony is that when IEP finally sold out of Molins, its parcel of 33 per cent of Molins was sold to Leucadia. Under takeover rules, Leucadia is then obliged to make a bid.

The broker's view of Molins' worth will not have been lost on Molins' institutional shareholders, which include M&G, with its 18.6 per cent holding, Prudential (5.3 per cent), and the US Heinz Securities group (5.5 per cent).

Molins spent £1.13 million in its last financial year fighting off Sir Ron, and will be spending more funds this year fighting off Leucadia.

Meanwhile, because it holds such a commanding number of Molins shares, Leucadia is in a position to block any special resolution which Molins, in the ordinary course of business, might feel should be proposed.

Sit tight, Molins shareholders, and await offer number six!

GILT-EDGED

# Failings that robbed market of its friends

Leaders of this column have been faced with a diet of unmitigated gloom since the beginning of the year. Gilt yields continue to rise as inflation approaches double-digit levels, the trade deficit rears its ugly head again and the real economy treads a fine line between recession and anaemic expansion.

As an economist for a Japanese securities house, I perceive the view of Tokyo investors both with regard to the gilt market and the economy as less than encouraging. Ten years of a Conservative Government appear to have done little to improve Britain's economic performance, especially relative to Continental Europe where countries such as France, the Netherlands and West Germany have a much more attractive inflation/output mix.

In addition, the bungling over the poll tax and Labour's lead in the opinion polls are leading Japanese investors to think that Tokyo's favourite politician — Mrs Thatcher — might be heading for early retirement.

Indeed, there are increasing questions over the competence of the Government in the economic policy sphere.

The Treasury's "firm exchange rate policy," for example, stretches even the credibility of Japanese investors long used to the concept of "tatemae" (loosely translated as the gap between rhetoric and reality). Economic policy is now increasingly dictated by electoral expediency.

Certainly, global bond market conditions are not helpful. The US quarterly refunding is unlikely to attract significant Japanese interest even with the yield on the US long bond at 9 per cent. Yields typically go up before and after a May auction in the US and yields of 7.4 per cent in the yen market are enough to divert the attention of a sizeable proportion of Japanese bond investors.

A possible delay by the Bundesbank in raising interest rates might provide sterling with a breathing space until the next set of inflation and trade figures. No doubt the Treasury will be working overtime to convince us that erratic items or unusual factors are responsible for the next set of bad figures. But DM2.50 still looks a plausible year-end target, though long gilt yields could well touch 14 per cent before then.

**Neil MacKinnon**  
Chief Economist  
Yamaichi International

## US NOTEBOOK

### Bonds signal need for tighter money

FEARS and expectations that the Federal Reserve Board might tighten monetary conditions were moderated on Friday with the publication of GNP data for the first quarter.

The outcome was lower than expected, while inflation over the two quarters to end-March was not much different from the 4.4 per cent annual rate that has prevailed for some time.

There were heightened expectations last week of imminent Fed tightening, aroused by the evidence that three key indicators were performing badly.

In all respects these indicators — the dollar, commodity prices and the yield curve — were (and mostly still are) demanding that the Fed move to a far more restrictive policy stance.

Fed thinking seems to be trying to run monetary policy by watching and attempting to control the movement of monetary aggregates. It is next to useless these days due to the confusion caused by the deregulation of the financial markets.

Therefore, the Fed watches the "auction markets," of which the crucial ones are the dollar, the yield curve and commodity prices.

As the dollar weakens, the need to tighten increases. At present, the dollar looks strong but it would be truer to say the yen is weak.

The bond market is saying inflationary expectations are rising. Some time ago, Mr Wayne Angell, a Fed governor, said: "We will know we are succeeding in our monetary policy when the bond market rallies."

In other words, a measure of success or failure of policy would be the level of bond prices. As bond prices have been tumbling, the Fed would no doubt feel its policy is failing.

When commodity prices are rising, the Fed's policy is failing. When they are stable or falling, the Fed's policy is succeeding.

At present, commodity

prices are on an unconvincing rise. Since its low of 222 in mid-1989, the Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices has risen to 242 — a rise of 9 per cent, which is clearly unacceptable.

By all these criteria, Fed policy today is far too loose.

Whether the hawks at the Fed are able to muster the rest of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee behind them remains to be seen.

There is some question whether Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman, will go along with a more aggressive policy of tightening, due to the fierce political pressure being exerted for lower interest rates.

However, those arguing for tightening could say to potential critics that unless Fed policy is tightened the bond market is only going to sink ever lower.

The extreme malaise in the bond market is leading to huge liquidations of all long positions.

The rush out of long positions into short positions is killing business in the financial markets. No one wants to be in a long position — so new issues, mergers and acquisitions, corporate loans and of course junk bonds are out. Fear has taken over.

But as long positions are liquidated at loss, the funds being poured into money market mutual funds, T-bills and bank deposits are not being used by the banks. Instead, all new cash coming into the banks is being used to support their deteriorating balance sheets and to finance the enormous losses now emerging because of the boom in lending and the rapid asset increases during the latter half of the 1980s.

The banks financed an excessive growth in assets during the last half of the 1980s; now they are discovering to their horror that a large part of these loans is worthless. This goes for American, British, Australian and Japanese banks.

At present, commodity prices are on an unconvincing

**Maxwell Newton**  
New York



## DECISIVE AND UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MANAGEMENT

95% OF INDEPENDENT VOTES\*

Managing a company with a range of businesses demands considerable resource and long-term planning. The prospect of a long-term focus for discontent if the issues in question are not settled is potentially damaging for the company. The issues should be settled decisively and unequivocally by the shareholders who are the owners of the company.

D.H. Brydon  
Chairman, Institutional Shareholders' Committee  
Extract from letter to the Financial Times 19 April 1990

At the Vickers P.L.C.'s AGM last Thursday, shareholders were asked to vote on the proposals put forward by Sir Ron Brierley's vehicle, IEP Securities Limited, to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. The resolution to demerge was defeated by a resounding vote of support for Vickers' long-term strategy.

\*The votes cast against the resolution to demerge Rolls-Royce Motor Cars as a percentage of total votes (excluding the votes on behalf of IEP Securities Limited and the Directors of Vickers).

**Fort Sterling changes its fortunes with environment-friendly recycled paper**

# Green light for tissue maker

By Derek Harbin  
Business Editor

**FORT** Sterling was a lower rank paper-tissue producer manufacturing mainly for own labels when it launched its own "green" brand last April. But in just a few months the product had seized so much of the £600-million tissues market that a new £60 million paper machine is to be installed. It will virtually double capacity at the Lancashire base.

The UK arm of Fort Howard, the United States paper manufacturer, Fort Sterling was established about six years ago. It had a paper mill and a conversion plant that recycled paper as an economically priced feedstock.

Mr Rodney Ashford, marketing and sales director, said: "The breakthrough was in being able to produce the right grades of tissue, of comparable quality to other tissue, while using entirely recycled material. A year ago nobody else in tissues was selling recycled products so we have taken tissues down the 'green' route."

The main products are toilet tissue and kitchen rolls, which Fort Sterling sells under the Nouvelle brand. The "helps save trees" slogan pushes home the green message. Mr Ashford said: "Our timing with the green promotion turned out absolutely right because it was last spring



BARRY GREENWOOD

On a roll: Rodney Ashford, of Sterling, which will almost double its capacity by installing a £60 million paper machine

when there was most attention turned to environmentally friendly products."

With bigger competitors such as Scott Paper's Andrex and Kimberly-Clark's Kleenex moving in to the market, "green" penetration in toilet tissue is already 6.2 per cent, and 10.6 per cent in paper

towels. This compares with 5 per cent for green detergents.

After Nouvelle's April launch last year — with prices pitched 6 per cent below the leaders — Fort Sterling seized 3.4 per cent of the tissue market by the summer. Capacity was strained; promotion was cut and the market share

eased to marginally less than 3 per cent. About £5 million went on interim production improvements but installation of the new state-of-the-art paper machine will double the impact.

Mr Ashford does not underestimate the competition from larger companies in the new

"green" tissue sector. His latest move is to bring in plastic film wrapping for Nouvelle products which is itself made partly from recycled materials.

He said: "Turnover last year was about £60 million and this year it should be approaching £80 million."

## Vard cruises to London listing

By Our City Staff

**VARD**, the world's second largest cruise line, is preparing for a London flotation in June to broaden ownership of its shares from its Oslo base and existing listing on the Norwegian stock exchange.

It is understood there are no plans by Mr Jørn Eriksen, managing director, for cash-raising with the listing.

Vard is worth about £150 million on the Oslo market. It now owns the Royal Cruise Line, which operates what is claimed to be the world's most luxurious cruise line, the *Royal Viking Sun*.

Recent results revealed a first-quarter drop to Kr924 million (£92.2 million) from Kr120 million. But first-quarter figures last year were inflated by unexpected profits from the *Royal Viking Sun's* inaugural cruise.

Analysts expect this year's

Wider horizons: Eriksen

## Monarch intent on staying solo

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

DESPITE the close attentions of a number of financial "marriage brokers" who are trying to bring together rival airlines throughout Britain, Monarch Airlines — one of the most successful charter carriers — is determined to stay aloof.

After the death of its chairman and managing director Mr Alan Snadden, a number of City analysts and brokers drew up plans for the company to merge with Britannia. The project looked, at first sight, to be a perfect fit between the two main carriers operating out of Gatwick.

The company also has close links with Air France and Lufthansa in operating a service to and from Berlin where another five 757s have been ordered.

Despite Monarch's declared intention of resisting the blandishments from the growing number of outside companies who see an opportunity for making mergers within the airline industry, it is certain to be approached again in the coming months.

However, Mr Don Angus, Monarch's new managing director, insists the Swiss-owned company which controls the airline has no intention of selling.

"We are perfectly happy as we are," he said. "We are

## Double blow for HK economy

From Luu Yu in Hong Kong

AN UNEXPECTED big rise in the inflation rate and further falls in domestic exports have fed fears that Hong Kong's economy is entering a downward spiral.

The consumer price index, which jumped 10 per cent in March, was "disappointingly high", compared with rises of 9.5 per cent in January and 8.4 per cent in February, said Dr Alan McLean, chief economist of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp.

"The recent strength of the US dollar has not helped Hong Kong exports," he said.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the US currency. The fall in domestic exports by HK\$16.5 billion (£1.3 billion), or 0.7 per cent in the same month, reflected tough business conditions and slower economic growth. It was the fifth consecutive month in which domestic exports fell.

Fortunately, re-exports, using Hong Kong as a transit centre, grew 16.1 per cent to HK\$30.7 billion in March, taking total exports to HK\$47.3 billion, 9.6 per cent up on the same period last year. Because imports rose

A preliminary ruling by the Commerce Department last

week found Hong Kong guilty of selling knitwear at cut-price in the US, and two exporters have been fined before a final ruling in July. If that goes against Hong Kong, it could cripple the knitwear trade, which produced sales of HK\$1.62 billion to the US last year.

Mr Eddie Lu, chairman of the Hong Kong knitwear exporters' group, said: "Hong Kong is among the world's most competitive free-trade environments and our firms must make profits, otherwise we could not survive."

CLOSE shave averted

Another great City institution is now faced with extinction — but in a final affectionate act, its last owner has given it a 12-month reprieve to allow time to try to find a saviour. Lionel Lee, who died earlier this month while on holiday in Tel Aviv, at the age of 73, had been the proprietor of Geoffrey's, the barbers beside the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, for 26 years, and had worked there for even longer, since it opened in 1934. A widower, in his will he has left the business to relatives, but with the condition attached that they must wait a year before selling it. "The staff are all very anxious," says one regular, "because of the uncertainty." Lee and his team used to cut between 120 and 200 City heads a day, at £10 a time — with the number of customers rising and falling in direct correlation with daily movements in the FT-SE Index. Lee's memorial service, due to be held at St Michael's Church, opposite Geoffrey's, on May 23, should bring together an impressive array of the great and the good from the Square Mile. Among his loyal clientele were past and present Bank of England Governors — Leigh Pemberton, O'Brien, Richardson and Cobbold — and more than 30 former Lord Mayors.

Sailing off

Archetypal jobber Tony Lewis, one-time chairman of Smith New Court, who went into semi-retirement and be-

came non-executive chairman two years ago, bade a fond farewell to 80 or so past and present colleagues on Friday, at an in-house buffet luncheon party. The departure of Lewis, aged 62 — who will now have more time to extend his already impressive collection of cameras and sail his even more impressive yacht, *Salt*

Ginger hangs up sticks

A colourful City character, who will perhaps be best remembered for the time he turned up in drag on the floor of the Stock Exchange, on the day dealings in Miss World shares began, or for his preference for khaki shorts and an Australian-style straw hat, complete with swinging cork on Christmas Eve, will be leaving the Square Mile today. Eric Baker, otherwise affectionately known — much against his own wishes — as "Ginger" Baker, is retiring at the age of 61. A partner with Shaw & Co, the broker, in the 1970s, he left to work for a succession of other City firms before returning to Shaw & Co two years ago. "He was one of the market floor's characters, a very witty man and always helpful," one of his old friends recalled.

Water Gassy — precedes the arrival tomorrow of corporate financier extraordinaire Michael Richardson, also 62. Richardson, a one-time partner of Cammell, and a personal friend and frequent adviser to Mrs Thatcher, will be giving up his position as head of corporate finance at N M Rothschild — which owns a fully diluted 35 per cent of SNC — to join the firm. Although he will be non-executive chairman, he is expected to put in four days a week. Richardson revitalized Rothschild's corporate finance department. Word is he will do the same at SNC.

• Smith New Court has trebled the size of its brewery team in one fell swoop. It has recruited John Walters, a specialist salesman, and Mark Pollard, an analyst, from Lawrence Prust. They will work with Smith's existing brewing analyst, Mike McCarthy, who heads the team.



## Wallace collection

Graham Wallace, former head of corporate communications at James Capel — which has lost more than its fair share of staff in recent weeks, including five European warrant holders who have gone to RZW — also left on Friday. Wallace, who had been with Capel three years, starts his own company with offices in the City today. Called The Art of the Matter, it will, he says, "be a consultancy in corporate and brand positioning. If you are a corporate or brand entity you have a certain character and image. I will produce a study to show if your marketing programme matches that character or image." Wallace, aged 41, has effectively been replaced by Marjorie Stimulin.

### He no meaney

Attacked with catcalls and cries of "insider" when he won the first prize in a raffle at his firm's Christmas Party last week — airline tickets worth £1,000, donated by Air Tours — Richard Meaney, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, did the honourable thing and offered them for auction. His generosity helped raise a total of £3,000 for Remedy — the Rehabilitation and Medical Research Trust — of which his boss, Brian Winterflood, is vice-president. The eventual bidder, paying £1,200, was Martin Burton, who will have plenty of time to use them. He was head of derivatives at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers and is still "testing" at home after the firm quit UK equities at the turn of the year.

Carol Leonard

### ECONOMIC VIEW

## Why pensions should stay in public domain

Nigel Lawson was ever the thinking man's Chancellor, whatever criticism has followed in the wake of his early retirement from the Cabinet last autumn. But, for all his experience of Treasury purdah, he was not always good at keeping back his cogitations about how to steer a mature economy such as Britain's into enlightened old age.

It was in a moment's weakness, while discreetly briefing the gentlemen of the fourth estate in November 1988, that he appeared to signal that the universal benefit of the state pension was about to be dismantled in support of the Government's immediate good housekeeping and underlying strategy of diminishing the role of the state. Large loomed the spectre of the means-tested pension. Concern that changes in the age structure of the population would seriously increase demands on the public purse in the decades ahead, undoing much of work of the Thatcher years, lay behind Lawson's thinking. And he was not alone in this.

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In *Pensioners and the Public Purse*, published today, the Institute for Fiscal Studies scrutinizes the Government's record over the past decade and comes to some interesting conclusions about the merits of following through the Lawson logic. While average incomes of pensioners have risen over the past decade, and look likely to continue rising as individual entitlements to Serps grow, there has been a disturbing rise in inequality.

In the 1970s, the gap between the richest and the poorest pensioners narrowed. Since 1980, it has widened again, largely because of the Government's decision to link pensions to prices and not wages. The IFS concludes that this move, which reduced the gross public spending cost by 20 per cent, has sharply increased dependence on means-tested benefits among pensioners, with far-reaching consequences for public spending.

I calculates the cost of these extra benefits would lower by 43 per cent the net cost of bringing pensions back into line with earnings growth. It would also reduce the number of pensioners on income support by almost 80 per cent.

On the key question of re-targeting the system away from universal pensions towards greater reliance on means-testing, the IFS points to the "stigma" and inconvenience of claiming benefits. This is seen as an important reason for the less than 100 per cent take-up — a sign that some needy are being missed. The state pension still appears to be well targeted on poverty, with only 24 per cent of expenditure boosting incomes above the level of means-tested benefit.

This fell far short of dismantling state pensions, but it did indicate a desire to target special cases.

Given its present low rating among the electorate, it is wholly understandable that the Government is saying little about the implications of the Lawson lead. That is not to say all is forgotten.

Before his leap to high office, John Major was, after all, a diligent chief secretary at the Treasury. He has also publicly cultivated the image of a man with a strong interest in the social dimension as well as the economic.

Writing in the latest *National Westminster Bank Quarterly Review*, he puts forward a proposal for reform that runs counter to the ideas of a committee of ISE members.

Mr Scott-Quinn says the key to profitability lies in lower costs and increased product differentiation and specialization.

Colin Narbrough  
Economics Correspondent

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# Trump plays the king of cash in a high-risk game

As doubts are voiced about the true extent of the Trump fortune, John Durie examines the evidence

**M**r Donald Trump, the ubiquitous New York property developer, says he wants to raise cash for his empire, but just why he is making the move has caused uproar on Wall Street.

Some say Mr Trump's empire is not what it was. *Forbes Magazine* will today publish a revised version of his wealth which shows it falling from \$1.7 billion last year to \$500 million this year. It says his debts total \$3.2 billion and his assets \$3.7 billion.

Mr Trump rejected these figures. He told *The Times*: "The facts are quite plain, I have \$400 million sitting in the bank, and had a net cash flow of \$157 million last year, and will have a net cash flow of \$171 million this year."

"I just believe property is heading downwards and I want to be king of cash because I believe in doing so I will be offered some very good deals."

Mr Trump launched his empire in 1975 by taking advantage of the near-bankrupt state of the City of New York. Now, the 43-year-old's empire stretches from Atlantic City casinos and New York property, including the Plaza Hotel, to the airline shuttle running between New York, Washington and Boston, named Trump Shuttle.

Mr Trump says he wants to sell the shuttle, which he bought last year from the financially-troubled Mr Frank Lorenzo for \$365 million.

In deals worth \$290 million he is also refinancing two Manhattan properties, his 50 per cent stake in the Grand Hyatt Hotel and Trump Tower, his Fifth Avenue retail and apartment building.

Mr Trump encourages publicity, trading his name like others do with their brand names by courting sporting heroes like Mike Tyson, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, and doing interviews in magazines ranging from *Fortune* to *Playboy*.

Attention has focused on the split between "The Donald", as he is known in the New York tabloids, and wife

## NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 157TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIERS HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, SE1 9DD, ON WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 1990, at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

- To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1989 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- To re-elect as Directors of the Office the following Directors, who retire by rotation:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Jenkin of Roding  
Michael Melluish  
Leo Tutt  
John Whitney

- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Directors,  
B. W. SWEETLAND, Secretary.  
30th April 1990

## NOTES

- A member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him.
- To be valid the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.
- Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.
- Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy numbers.
- Only members are entitled to vote. Certain policyholders are not members. If a policyholder who is not also a member completes and returns a form of proxy, it will not be counted.
- Members have one vote each irrespective of the number of policies held.
- Members are entitled, on application to the Secretary, to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts.

Friends' Provident Life Office,  
Pixham End,  
Dorking,  
Surrey, RH4 1QA



Donald Trump: "Business is better than ever"

Ivana, after his affair with Donna Maples, whose only family to claim was once coming second in a Georgia beauty contest.

Mr Trump confided to *The Times*: "Look, I hate to say anything about divorce is positive, but the fact is that business is better now than it ever was." The son of a multi-millionaire New York property developer, Mr. Trump started out by collecting rents from his father's tenants in Queens and Brooklyn.

A graduate of Wharton Business School — which includes among its alumni Mr Michael Milken, the securities dealer convicted of fraud — Mr. Trump, at the age of 28, used hefty tax breaks to buy the Commodore Hotel above New York's Grand Central Railways Station in 1975. This is now The Grand Hyatt hotel.

He also invested early in Atlantic City, spending \$1 million buying land, before gambling was allowed there in 1976. By the early 1980s when no one wanted to go near Atlantic City, he had \$22 million invested in its future. He now has more than \$2 billion invested in the city, which attracts revenue of \$3 billion a year as a gambling centre. His latest \$1 billion venture, the Taj Mahal casino, is financed almost entirely by municipal bond notes requiring \$1.1 million a \$1.3 million a day to break even.

Mr. Trump's assets are privately owned, with any debt applied strictly to each asset on a non-recourse basis, according to Mr. Trump. He sometimes borrows the entire cost of a new acquisition, as he did with his airline shuttle, but this now has a cash deficit estimated to be about \$40 million a year and will remain so unless Mr. Trump can lift its market share from its present 50 per cent, which would force real estate prices down.

With commercial real estate over-capacity running at more than 20 per cent, the US Federal Reserve is also under market pressure to increase interest rates, which would further dampen the market.

Despite these warning signs, Miss Susan Hering, a Salomon Bros property analyst, told *The Times* that there was little sign yet of commercial banks leaving real estate lending.

In a recent report, Salomon Bros said in the five years to last December, real estate's share of outstanding loans rose from 25 to 37 per cent and its share of new loans amounted to 64 per cent.

Citicorp's chairman, Mr John Reed, recently said that he expected to increase provisions further against non-performing real estate loans after adding \$800 million to its real estate provisions last year.

Although banking's taste for real estate loans was initially centred in regional banks, others followed in lemming fashion. Bankwatch, the bank analyst group, noted that continental banks had the fifth-largest rise in real estate loans among US banks, with real estate loans up by 33.9 per cent last year.

Initial problems have centred on regional banks, evidenced by the sale by the Bank of New England of a third of its assets.

Time will tell whether he is indeed worth more than others claim and whether he can repeat his unique magic in creating more wealth.

It may be too early to say that the US real estate market is in crisis, but all signs point in that direction.

## Property crisis signalled in US

THE United States has 500 million sq ft of office space vacant and awaiting buyers, equal to the combined size of the entire commercial office space of New York and Detroit (John Durie writes).

Once present projects are completed, even if no further buildings were erected for eight years, the market would still have plenty of supply.

Mr William Saidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said recently that US bank assets had grown by 12 per cent since 1986, but real estate loans had grown by 48 per cent and non-performing real estate loans by 54 per cent.

To make matters worse, Mr Saidman, as caretaker for the failed savings and loans industry (thrifts), had, at the end of last year, \$200 billion of real estate to sell by 1996.

Three facts lie behind a growing real estate crisis in the US. A market with chronic over-supply, combined with the Government tightening controls on thrifts, has choked the supply of new real estate loans at a time when commercial banks are starting to tighten lending.

The Resolution Trust Corporation, which is empowered

to sell the thrift assets, is not

allowed to sell into depressed markets at less than 95 per cent of appraised market values.

Only last week, it

considered plans to cut the

appraised value of its entire

real estate inventory by 15 per

cent, which would force real

estate prices down.

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share of outstanding loans

rose from 25 to 37 per cent

and its share of new loans

amounted to 64 per cent.

The only acquisition he

followed through was buying

the Resorts International

Group in 1987.

Some of Mr. Trump's most

prized possessions are running

cash flow deficits and the

Plaza is showing a book loss.

But he rightly argues that

the building, bought two years ago

for \$260 million, would

readily be sold for a profit.

Mr. Trump, who has also

devoted considerable time to

charitable works, remains one

of America's wealthy people, even on *Forbes* downgraded

estimate.

Time will tell whether he is

indeed worth more than others

claim and whether he can

repeat his unique magic in

creating more wealth.

It may be too early to say

that the US real estate market

is in crisis, but all signs point

in that direction.

New interest bands for the Clients Premium Account and

High Interest Business Account will be announced shortly.

Barclays

## NEW INTEREST RATES FOR BARCLAYS BUSINESS ACCOUNTS FROM 1st MAY.

### BUSINESS PREMIUM AND FARMERS PREMIUM ACCOUNT

INVESTMENT	NET RATE % P.A.	GROSS EQUIV % P.A.	GROSS RATE % P.A.
£1,000 - £24,999	9.75	13.00	12.50
£25,000 - £99,999	10.00	13.33	13.25
£100,000 - £249,999	10.15	13.55	13.50
£250,000 - £1m	10.25	13.67	13.625

The Business Premium Account and Farmers Premium Account are high interest immediate access accounts for business customers and farmers. Interest is paid quarterly and there is a minimum deposit of £1,000 and a maximum deposit of £1,000,000.

New interest bands for the Clients Premium Account and High Interest Business Account will be announced shortly.

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## REPORTING THIS WEEK

# Market's weather eye focuses on ICI

## TODAY

THE market eagerly awaits news from Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest chemicals company, which is chaired by Sir Denis Henderson, and which is still seen by many as a barometer for British stocks.

The company will be affected by the weakness in the British and US economies, with these markets accounting for about 45 per cent of sales.

Bulk chemicals' profits are forecast to be down heavily following a cyclical drop. However, this will be partly offset by good performances from pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and explosives.

First quarter pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £442 million to £345 million by Mr Ian John at County Natwest WoodMac. This is at the lower end of market forecasts which range from £340 million to £380 million.

National Home Loans, the mortgage lender, will be affected by the difficulties in the housing market although it should reap the benefits of diversification into other areas of financial services. BZW expects interim pre-tax profits to climb from £13.4 million to £14.5 million.

Moss Bros Group, the menswear retail and hire group, gave a warning of difficult conditions late last year. However, Mr Wilfred Cass, the chairman, thought the group was being affected less than competitors.

Analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range from £2.6 million to £3.5 million for the full year, compared with £2.9 million.

Second-half profits at Tootal, the textiles group where Coats Viyella has a 29.9 per cent stake, are likely to fall sharply. UBS Phillips & Drew sees pre-tax profits of £36 million for the full year, compared with £42.3 million, with forecasts ranging from £35 million to £39 million.

Interims: Anglo-Park Group, Bristow Holdings, Bristow (James), Cargo Control, Conrad Continental, London & Overseas Freighters. Economic statistics: CBI industrial survey (April).

## TOMORROW

Interims: Ashley Group, Drayton

Group, Asia Pacific Watch Products, BDA Holdings, Beavis (James), Cargo

Control, Conrad Continental, Lon-

don & Overseas Freighters.

Economic statistics: CISI industrial

survey (April).

## USM REVIEW

## Number of companies joining junior market falls to four-year low

The number of new issues on the USM during 1989 was the lowest for four years according to a survey of all Stock Exchange flotation carried out jointly by Price Waterhouse, the chartered accountant, and Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker.

"The number of companies admitted to the Full List, USM and Third Market in 1989 was 205 — some 23 per cent lower than 1988, with the USM recording the lowest number of entrants for four years," said Mr Christopher Wilkinson, of Panmure Gordon.

Flotation nevertheless remains a good source of finance for businesses. The survey shows that about £3.7 billion was raised by flotation during 1989, excluding privatization issues. And the capitalization of many of those companies which did go ahead with flotation has increased.

Mr Wilkinson said: "Despite the uncertainty in the markets, almost half of new entrants managed to achieve the all-important objective of increasing their market capitalization by the end of the year."

But the survey confirms that because of those uncertain market conditions, price/earnings ratios have been declining, with average flotation p/e's in the second half of 1989 significantly lower than in the previous six months. And on both the USM and the main stock market, the average p/e figure for the whole of 1989 is significantly lower than the 1988 figure.

An analysis of the cost of a flotation

reveals that the average sum a company pays for a placing is £659,000 for a full listing, £288,000 for a USM listing and £197,000 for a Third Market quote. A breakdown of the percentage of the amount being raised that those costs represent shows they are, respectively, 4.8 per cent, 10.8 per cent and 9 per cent.

"The costs of flotation varied considerably and for the smaller companies represented a significant proportion of the amount raised on flotation, reflecting the substantial element of largely fixed costs incurred, whichever market is used," the report concludes.

The survey welcomes plans by the Stock Exchange to relax the advertising requirements for offers for sale or subscription methods of flotation, which cause the costs to soar even higher. The average cost of an offer for sale on the main market is £2.74 million.

The costs of flotation should not become a barrier to entry to the markets, particularly for the small and medium-sized issues," the survey says.

Figures to illustrate the performance of companies on their respective markets are particularly encouraging for USM newcomers. "For those companies floated in the first half of 1989 on the Full List, 13 per cent outperformed the FT-All Share Index in the second six months, whereas some 65 per cent of those floated on the USM outperformed the USM Index over the same period," the survey says.

Carol Leonard

## A sunnier Global outlook

A RETURN to the black by Global Group signalled that the first step in the group's transformation by the new management team, headed by Mr Michael Shafrazi, the former Henderson Crosthwaite stockbroker, has been successful.

Preliminary figures for the seven months to December 31 showed pre-tax profits of £519,000 compared with a loss for the year to May 31, 1989 of £2.6 million. The change in the group's year followed the reverse takeover of ELC, the shipping services group, last November in a deal worth almost £15 million.

Earnings per share were 1.2p compared with a loss of 38.4p last time round. Interest payments were slashed from £837,000 to £203,000. Once again, there was no dividend but the group is hoping to recommend one this year.

Mr Shafrazi and his management team moved into Global in June. He says: "The rationalization and restructuring of the old Global Group has now been completed. Subsidiaries which were lost

making or incapable of making a return on capital employed have been disposed of or closed down."

Global is left with just three of the original food businesses — all of which made useful contributions to profits. And Mr Shafrazi says he has no plans to dispose of them.

The balance sheet is also looking healthier after the sale of some property for £750,000 and the group is planning to sell more. Total debt is about £2 million but this includes a £1.25 million long-term loan.

Mr Shafrazi says he is very encouraged by the group's performance in the first three months and, in the longer term, expects ELC to benefit from the abolition of the National Dock Labour Scheme and the European single market in 1992. Besson Gregory, the broker, is already forecasting pre-tax profits of £5.4 million for the current year, boosted by a first-time contribution from ELC.

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Injuries cannot prevent a third rugby league Challenge Cup victory in a row

## Wigan rule as records tumble

By Keith Mackie

**Warrington** 14  
**Wigan** 36

AFTER yet another remarkable display of the irresistible professionalism of Wigan, one is inevitably left to wonder who was fooling who before the match. Wigan produced a list of injuries, all of them genuine, which cast serious doubt on their ability to stay the pace in the most exacting game of the season. Warrington had huffed and puffed and threatened to blow down the Wigan edifice.

Yet, at the end of Saturday's dramatic Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, both these prophecies had been turned on their heads.

Warrington were never in the hunt, while Wigan's parade of walking wounded seemed no more than a gigantic confidence trick, as Edwards, Hanley, Andy Gregory, Iro, Lydon and Platt played like men possessed.

The outstanding piece of courage came from the stand-off half, Shaun Edwards, who suffered a fractured jaw early in the game, but insisted on continuing and played an outstanding role in Wigan's triumph, which in turn created a record of three consecutive Wembley victories.

All Wigan's injured stars were towering examples of the power of mind, assisted by a handsome Wembley bonus, over master, as Warrington were demolished in demoralizing fashion by the team for whom the Wembley atmosphere acts like a course of adrenaline injections.

The Lance Todd Trophy for the man of the match went to Gregor, who established his own record by picking up his fifth winner's medal. Gregor denied the groin injury which will keep him out of the Great Britain tour to produce a storming display, in which his lightning breaks, eye for an opening, and perfect passes carved huge holes in a Warrington defence which started courageously, but eventually fell apart.

The Warrington captain, Mike Gregory, had promised that his side would not capitulate to Wigan as easily as St Helens last year and Halifax in 1988. Yet, they too went the



In full flight: Hanley, of Wigan, breaks through to score at Wembley, despite the efforts of Lyon and Burke

way of all lesser flesh. Indeed, their own suicidal tendencies led to the first two, and ultimately three, of the Wigan tries.

The full back, Lyon, had his kick charged down by Bettis to swoop and score. Then the New Zealand centre, Mercer, produced an inexplicable professional lapse when, as Warrington attacked in the Wigan 22-metre area, he sent a feeble chip straight into the hands of the grateful sprinter, Preston, who raced 75 metres for a second goal touchdown.

To their credit, Warrington fought back with a splendid try by Mike Gregory on the stroke of half-time, to which Bishop, who had kicked badly, added the points.

However, this minor setback only served to fuel Wigan's determination, and

they took complete charge of the second period. Iro, whose hamstring injury only cleared last Thursday, carved out his personal Wembley mark by scoring two tries for the third year in a row, his powerful hips and stunning hand-off scattering defenders like chaff.

Hanley, whose pelvic injury

may yet force his premature retirement from playing, took Gregory's perfectly-timed overhead pass to score the try all the Wigan supporters wanted, and when a desperate

Bishop and Edwards took play to the other end for Preston to take the final pass for his second

try.

John Monie, his opposite number, said: "I took a calculated gamble and it paid off, because of the marvellous courage and professionalism of the players. I wanted Edwards to come off, but he wouldn't hear of it."

At the end of it all, there was further bad news to temper the

delight of Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman, who is the Great Britain tour director. Edwards and the Warrington captain, Mike Gregory, who suffered an aggravation of an achilles tendon injury, are now doubtful for Papua, New Guinea and New Zealand. With Hanley already out, Great Britain could be without the three men who have captained the side in the past year.

After the game, the two coaches were understandably in utterly contrasting moods. Brian Johnson, of Warrington, said: "We made too many mistakes, but Wigan are a great side."

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## A team standing on the verge of legend

Simon Barnes

SOME years back, I suggested to Barry Hearn that if it was well, 'boring' the way Steve Davis won everything, Hearn, of course, is Davis's manager, friend, big-brother-figure and personal wizard. This was not a question calculated to win the answer, "I suppose it is, really."

"Boring?" Hearn said. "Boring? Steve is not boring. People have begun to realize they are not witnessing a predictable sporting event."

The legend is Wigan, of course. The rugby league club. The first name on the lips of a generation of Eddie Waring impersonators. The name on the Challenge Cup for the last three years. The club that possesses rugby league players — not ex-Union men — of whom people far away from the M62 have heard: Ellery Hanley, Kevin Iro, Andy Gregory, and Joe Lydon.

In one sense, it was a boring match. Warrington, their opponents, froze. They made

mistakes: Wigan punished these mistakes with the kind of insouciant brutality that marks champions. They fired simple ruthlessness and Warrington were powerless against it.

The current Wigan are, at the moment, halfway between being tediously successful and becoming a team of legendary stature. This is a golf that Liverpool bridged a long time ago. I think this occurred when Keegan departed for Germany and the side did not collapse. His replacement, a chap called Daighlin, lifted them to a still higher plane.

That is the thing about teams. They need never age. Individuals get older every year; a team does not have to. When an individual becomes a player of legendary success, the more time passes, the more you begin to fear their possible frailties.

Of all the sights in sport, there is none sadder than the that of the legend at the

turning point of his life — the moment when the power to conjure victories has departed. The clocks and calendars in sport move at a faster pace than those of the real world: Davis is the promising kid is a memory most of us share. To see him now as the ageing lion is a baffling transformation.

But Liverpool have managed the miracle of failing to grow old. Players have grown old, but as they have done so, they have moved on. None has played for Liverpool as a master of fading grace, an old codger kept going on flashes of brilliance and a tide of sentiment.

Wigan are now approaching the Liverpool gulf. Their greatest players are all suffering from the extreme rigours of this sport: two require operations and there have been suggestions that this could be Hanley's last game.

In individual sports, an ageing player can carry on at a

lower level, to his or her own satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of everyone else. Valiant failures are interspersed with sporadic triumphs: victories over opponents, clocks and calendars. One thinks of Jimmy Connors, of Jack Nicklaus, of Billie Jean King.

Teams need not adopt such a strategy (though plenty do). Teams have the choice of sentimentality, in retaining old favourites, or of, well, insouciant brutality.

The Liverpool method, in short.

Liverpool's lack of semi-

mentality has — thus far — enabled them to make a long series of pre-emptive strikes against the enemy — the enemy of all sporting people being Time. Wigan are on the threshold of a legend, but the next step, the question of when and how to make a transition to a new generation of great players, is by far the hardest challenge they have faced for years.

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The Times reports on Liverpool's eighteenth League championship success

# Title brings joy back to Anfield

By Clive White

Liverpool ..... 2  
QPR ..... 1

MERSEYSIDE is at peace again. After the shame and remorse of Heysel and the personal grief of Hillsborough, there was real joy to behold for the first time in five years at Anfield on Saturday as Liverpool reclaimed the championship title and stepped towards Europe's beckoning arms.

They might just as well have been winning the title for the first time as the eighteenth, so enthusiastic were the celebrations of players and coaching staff. It helped to explain their longevity as champions. Yet it is worth noting, if only for the benefit of UEFA, that barely a single supporter trespassed on to the pitch to join in. Victory — like defeat last season to Arsenal — was treated by the supporters with typical good manners.

It was almost as if Liverpool felt that they had won back their dignity, irrespective of whether or not it eventually receives Europe's official acknowledgement. Kenny Dalglish, who celebrated as ecstatically as anyone, was clearly of the opinion that it was not before time.

Asked if he relished the chance to return to Europe, he replied: "I'm not bothered really. We've won the League championship, and that's the most important thing. We've qualified for the European Cup as champions of England. It is up to administrators to decide whether they let us in."

Compared to the heart-stopping drama of last season's finish to the championship, this one was relatively low-key. But the news — and rumours — of how events were unfolding at Villa Park made for a fun finale, which might have turned a shade embarrassing for Dalglish and his staff had Aston Villa scored during Liverpool's premature lap of honour.

Nevertheless, Liverpool's tenth League title in 15 seasons was never in doubt, from the moment Maddix tackled Nicol on the edge of the



Going down: but Rosenthal, of Liverpool, came out on top after this tackle by Law, of Queen's Park Rangers, as Liverpool triumphed again

penalty area in the 64th minute and Mr Hart, the referee, pointed towards the spot. Television indicated that the tackle was outside the box, but no one was quibbling, not even Queen's Park Rangers.

"The team's had its critics,

but we have had only one League defeat since November, and that's one hell of a run," Hansen, their captain, said.

Hansen could also afford to

joke about the team's defeat to Crystal Palace in the FA Cup semi-final. "The lads are making a new record. It's called 'We're Forever Blowing Doubts'." For half an hour on Saturday, they were in danger of blowing another title, never mind a double.

Wegerle, showing some clever skills, put Rangers ahead after 14 minutes, and had Clarke's shot against the underside of the crossbar in

the 32nd minute gone in, instead of coming out, the championship race might have been protracted that bit further.

But the ubiquitous Rush pulled Liverpool level with a timely goal five minutes before half-time. Rangers made the mistake of affording Liverpool space in midfield and Molby, Barnes and Nicol are not the kind of players to refuse it. It seemed that Rush had, though, as the cross

veered off his chest, but in a split-second, he readjusted his sights, stretched out a foot and flashed the ball between Seaman and the near post for his 25th goal of the season.

In the next minute, Rush was denied his 26th only by

Seaman's outstretched foot and Liverpool had assumed control in their imminence.

Barnes may have been allowed, a little fortuitously, a

## Aston Villa's roller-coaster finally comes off the rails

By Chris Moore

**Aston Villa** ..... 3  
**Norwich City** ..... 3

NEITHER Graham Taylor, the Aston Villa manager, nor the club's supporters were especially downhearted that the arguments over the destination of the championship challenge is being mounted, how low might they be should they manage "only" a top four place next season.

It was, perhaps, a relief to be spared the agony of a fight to the finish, since Villa had long since wasted their chance to relieve Arsenal's last-ditch heroes of an offside tactic and a reliance on an offside tactic and a reliance on a physical approach.

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There was something faintly symbolic about the way Villa recovered from a goal down, stormed into a 3-1 lead and then let the prize slip from their grasp. Was that not, in fact, but a 90-minute précis of their varied season, in which Villa had gone Liverpool on an early lead, overcame them in dramatic fashion and then proved unable to stay the distance?

Taylor, nothing if not a realist, toasted Liverpool's success in champagne, admitted the better team had won and then reiterated his view that his team's progress since last au-

tumn had been beyond all expectations. This time, unlike for their win over Millwall a week earlier, the supporters turned out in force, the gate of 23,988 being approximately £8,000 up on the strange low of seven days earlier.

Taylor's natural fear is that if the attendances are so unreliable as a championship challenge is being mounted, how low might they be should they manage "only" a top four place next season?

That question and the failure to sustain their title challenge apart, there was much to admire about the way the team played their programme. The first goal by Captain of the Republic of Ireland international who was signed from Millwall for £1.5 million, lifted a weight off the shoulders of both the player and the manager.

It came in a breathtaking display of three goals in six minutes, high entertainment which reminded the supporters of the season's highlights, of which there had been many. After Fox had given Norwich a surprising first-half lead, McGrath voted Villa's players of the season, the golden spell beginning in a corner from Cowans.

**Referee**: R Milford.

## Liverpool triumph but the champagne is flatter this year

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

THERE is only one surprising feature about Liverpool being crowned as the champions of England for a record eighteenth time: although their superiority was unmistakable at the start of the first division programme eight months ago, they have had to wait until almost nightfall before it was officially confirmed.

But for Aston Villa's admirable and unexpected persistence, the delay would not have been so prolonged. Yet, this has not been a vintage season for Liverpool. The champagne they served throughout 1988, for instance, has, with a few exceptions, been more like sparkling white wine in 1989.

It follows that this has not been a vintage season for the first division either. Even though Liverpool finished short of their usual lofty standards, they left all but one club far behind. They still promise to finish, for example, no fewer than 15 points above the side in third place.

Others have had their moments of flashes of inspiration — most notably Southampton and Chelsea at the beginning, Nottingham Forest midway through and Everton and Tottenham Hotspur towards the end — but, once Arsenal's resistance had cracked soon after the turn of the year, only Villa were able to maintain a realistic challenge. That, too, was broken on Saturday.

Injuries have played an unusually destructive role in Kenny Dalglish's plans. Grobocopatch alone has been available for each of the 36 League fixtures so far, and Rosenthal, the Israeli international, who has been the source of the decisive impetus in the closing stages, was the twentieth to appear in the ever-changing line-up.

Yet the strength of Liverpool's squad is so deep that their reserves have run away with their own title. Their continuing advance in the Premier League is perhaps not so surprising as the way they were assisted, albeit briefly, by four probable World Cup players — Gillespie, Houghton, Nicol and Scunton.

These have been three principal individuals in the senior side. Before Whelan damaged a tendon, an unauthorised injury, which inevitably affected his performance but not his willingness to retain his place, he was a

£100,000 player — Gillespie, Houghton, Nicol and Scunton.

It is chilling to reflect that, for less than a handful of goals, they could have claimed both the FA Cup and the championship in each of the last three seasons. The dynasty they have established, though it may be common to a few European countries, is unique in England and there is no indication yet that the end is in sight.

■ Liverpool will receive the

League championship trophy and the specially commissioned Barclays League trophy, plus a cheque for £100,000, before their final home fixture against Derby County tomorrow. Exeter City will receive the fourth division championship trophy and a sponsor's cheque for £25,000 before their final home League match against Bury, also tomorrow.

## Huff and puff on ITV pay shareout

By Peter Bell

WHEN it was first called, today's Football League extra-divisional general meeting promised to be a fairly smoky affair. But being football, it now seems likely there will be yet another row.

The cause, inevitably, is money, and in particular, the long-running saga over the distribution of ITV money. It is a repeat of last year's disagreement with the same players making the same noises.

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, has once again stirred things up by proposing that the large facility fees of £145,000 to the home club and £45,000 to the visiting club should be replaced by a fee to each club of £20,000, with the balance being equally distributed to all first division clubs.

This was the end of Villa's roller-coaster ride towards the top of the first division and it was symbolic for Norwich, too, since their football and their application had been first-rate.

Suddenly Villa had a new attack of that uncertainty which costs them dearly each time they had a chance to open up a gap on Liverpool, and Rosario burst Mountfield past

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## MOTOR SPORT

### Mercedes score a double top in debut

**By a Special Correspondent**  
THE latest Mercedes-Benz C11 cars scored an extraordinary one-two victory on their debut in the second round of the world sports prototype championship at Monza, Italy, yesterday.

At the start, Mauro Baldi won the race for the first corner with his pole position Mercedes but, just behind, Jan Lammers tried to squeeze his Jaguar into the Mercedes of Jochen Mass.

The two cars made contact and both spun, leaving Baldi with a big lead. Lammers made a pit stop, for his nose cone to be secured, but rejoined the race behind Mass in 31st and last place.

Baldi made the most of his good fortune, although he and his codriver, the world champion Jean-Louis Schlesser, were placed under constant pressure by Martin Brundle and Alain Ferté with the other Jaguar.

Quickly catching the Toyotas, Porsches and Nissans, the delayed Mercedes, while being driven by Karl Wendlinger, recovered third position on the fourth lap, just before half-distance. In the Lammers-Jaguar, Andy Wallace also overtook the Nissans and moved into fourth place.

In the final shifts, Baldi put the race beyond Brundle's reach as the Jaguar ran into braking problems. On the last lap, Baldi put Lammers a lap behind, and Mass overtook Brundle on the back straight. Both Baldi and Brundle ran out of fuel on the slowing down lap.

**RESULTS:** Trophy Caracciole: 1, M Baldi (Italy) and J Schlesser (Fr); Mercedes, 2hr 17min 11.7sec; 2, Mass (Ita); 3, Baldi (Ita); 4, Lammers (Netherlands); 5, Brundle (GB); 6, Wallace (GB); 7, Schlesser (Fr); 8, A Ferri (Fr); 9, Jochen Mass (Germany); 10, Nissans 2:17.29.348; 3, M Brundle (GB) and A Ferri (Fr); 4, Jochen Mass (Germany); 5, Toyota (GB); 6, Porsche; 7, Honda; 8, Volvo; 9, Ford; 10, Ferrari (Ita). Porches: 2:17.38.129; 3, M Brundle (GB) and A Ferri (Fr); 4, Jochen Mass (Germany); 5, Toyota (GB); 6, Honda; 7, Volvo; 8, Ford; 9, Ferrari (Ita); 10, Mercedes-Benz (Ita).

RESULTS: Trofeo Caracciole: 1, M Baldi (Italy) and J Schlesser (Fr); Mercedes, 2hr 17min 11.7sec; 2, Mass (Ita); 3, Baldi (Ita); 4, Lammers (Netherlands); 5, Brundle (GB); 6, Wallace (GB); 7, Schlesser (Fr); 8, A Ferri (Fr); 9, Jochen Mass (Germany); 10, Nissans 2:17.29.348; 3, M Brundle (GB) and A Ferri (Fr); 4, Jochen Mass (Germany); 5, Toyota (GB); 6, Porsche; 7, Honda; 8, Volvo; 9, Ford; 10, Ferrari (Ita). Porches: 2:17.38.129; 3, M Brundle (GB) and A Ferri (Fr); 4, Jochen Mass (Germany); 5, Toyota (GB); 6, Honda; 7, Volvo; 8, Ford; 9, Ferrari (Ita); 10, Mercedes-Benz (Ita).

RESULTS: British Touring Car Championship: 1, Alan Cope (GB); 2, Steve Soper (GB); 3, Alan Cope (GB); 4, Steve Soper (GB); 5, Alan Cope (GB); 6, Steve Soper (GB); 7, Alan Cope (GB); 8, Alan Cope (GB); 9, Alan Cope (GB); 10, Alan Cope (GB); 11, Alan Cope (GB); 12, Alan Cope (GB); 13, Alan Cope (GB); 14, Alan Cope (GB); 15, Alan Cope (GB); 16, Alan Cope (GB); 17, Alan Cope (GB); 18, Alan Cope (GB); 19, Alan Cope (GB); 20, Alan Cope (GB); 21, Alan Cope (GB); 22, Alan Cope (GB); 23, Alan Cope (GB); 24, Alan Cope (GB); 25, Alan Cope (GB); 26, Alan Cope (GB); 27, Alan Cope (GB); 28, Alan Cope (GB); 29, Alan Cope (GB); 30, Alan Cope (GB); 31, Alan Cope (GB); 32, Alan Cope (GB); 33, Alan Cope (GB); 34, Alan Cope (GB); 35, Alan Cope (GB); 36, Alan Cope (GB); 37, Alan Cope (GB); 38, Alan Cope (GB); 39, Alan Cope (GB); 40, Alan Cope (GB); 41, Alan Cope (GB); 42, Alan Cope (GB); 43, Alan Cope (GB); 44, Alan Cope (GB); 45, Alan Cope (GB); 46, Alan Cope (GB); 47, Alan Cope (GB); 48, Alan Cope (GB); 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## RACING

# Tiger Claw to cap Hodges double

By Mandarin

RON Hodges, better known for his National Hunt exploits, has made a remarkable start to the Flat season and can add to his impressive tally on two fronts today.

The Somerton trainer has already saddled seven winners this term and now has bright prospects of a double with Double Handful at Pontefract (3.15) and Tiger Claw at Windsor (6.35).

Willie Carson has become a significant booking for the Hodges-trained horses in these early weeks of the season, partnering three of those seven winners, and he retains his successful partnership with Tiger Claw in Windsor's Dusty Miller Handicap.

Tiger Claw followed a promising ninth in Kate Jeat



Ron Hodges' fancied runners at two flat meetings Kempton by landing a Brighton handicap seven days ago and clearly relishes prevailing fast ground. A slip penalty will not stop this improving four-year-old following up.

Double Handful was lightly-raced last year when

trained by Peter Arthur but showed a measure of ability when third in an all-aged handicap at Warwick in March, a good effort for a three-year-old so early in the season.

After three runs in better company this season, Double Handful looks ready to get off the mark in the Tote Credit Selling Handicap at Pontefract where the booking of Michael Roberts is highly encouraging.

Reg Hollingshead's versatile eight-year-old, Bluff Cova, has become something of a standing dash at the Yorkshire track and can gain his fourth course success in the Tote Marathon Handicap.

The Upper London trainer can initiate a double in the opening Tote Placepot Maiden Auction Stakes with Kini Style, a fair third to

Bellefonte at Thirsk on his debut 10 days ago.

Henry Cecil, setting a blistering pace at the head of the trainers' table, casts his net far and wide with runners at all three meetings. He sends out four horses and it would come as no surprise if all of them won.

Steve Cauthen travels up to Pontefract for the Northern Derbyshire filly Natasia (4.15) and Relent D'Beante (3.15) while Willie Ryan partners Madame Dubois at Wolverhampton (4.0) before travelling on to Windsor for Golan Heights (8.5).

Of the Warren Place quartet, my strongest feelings are for Golan Heights, who is napped to give fellow Derby entry Zubrovka 10lb and a beating in the Mar Lodge Graduation Stakes.

Loch Duich makes a quick reappearance after finishing a fair fifth to Touch Above in a Beverley handicap on Thursday.

**Blinkered first time**  
PONTEFRACt: 3.15 Double Handful, 6.35 Tiger Claw, 7.5 Kini Style, 8.5 Natasia Des Freres, 9.5 Relent D'Beante, 10.5 Madame Dubois.

## Selections

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.45 Kind Style.

3.15 Double Handful.

3.45 Elm-Yemou.

4.15 Natasia.

4.45 Bluff Cova.

4.75 Relent D'Beante.

5.45 Relent in Favour.

By Michael Scely's selection:

4.45 Bluff Cova, 5.15 Relent D'Beante.

The Times Private: Hodges' top rating: 5.45 CATBALLOU.

Going: firm (good to firm in places) Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best

245 TOTE PLACEPOT MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (3-Y-O: 22.545: 50) (13 runners)

1 (2) 6 ALYONKA 19 (D) (Mrs J Addison) J Balling 8-6  
2 (3) 7 KING'S STYLE 19 (D) (Mrs J Hodges) 8-6  
3 (4) 8 HARRY LAD 19 (D) (G Chappell) T Barber 8-4  
4 (5) 9 COMMUNIQUE INVITATION 19 (D) (S Shattock) M W Eastbury 8-3  
5 (6) 10 SWEETHEART 19 (D) (Mrs J Hodges) 8-2  
6 (7) 11 KINNARDO 19 (D) (Mrs J Hodges) 8-1  
7 (8) 12 KINNARDO 19 (D) (Mrs J Hodges) 8-1  
8 (9) 13 KINNARDO 19 (D) (Mrs J Hodges) 8-1  
9 (10) 14 KINNARDO 19 (D) (Mrs J Hodges) 8-1  
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# a deserved victory

By John Woodcock

**TAUNTON:** Somerset (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (5) by 10 wickets

**THERE** were rewards, in varying degrees, for both sides at Taunton yesterday, and a good mark for the groundsmen. On an excellent pitch, Somerset started their championship season with a victory, the first time they have done so since 1965, and Gloucestershire, two runs behind with five wickets already down when play began, did quite well to detain them until after tea.

The match was decided by a fine slip catch, taken left-handed and very low, by Trevor Lloyds and Russell, the seventh-wicket pair for Gloucestershire, had been together for just under an hour at the time, and the new ball was starting to lose its shine.

## SCOREBOARD

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 197 (Ashley 62; Leveson 5 for 30).	
Second Innings	
A J Wright c Haden b Walsh 37	
J D Hodges b Haden 25	
C W J Ashby b Jones 59	
J W Leveson c Tavaris b Rose 13	
D V Lawrence c Leveson b Rose 9	
T C Russell c Tavaris b Jones 18	
D A Graveney c Rose b Jones 1	
K S J Jenkins not out 1	
Extras (b, lb, nb, n) 25	
Total 300	
Score of WICKETS: 1-94, 2-141, 3-149, 4-175, 5-220, 6-230, 7-301, 8-305, 9-330, 10-338.	
BOWLING: Jones 27.1-57.5; Maller 25.6-55; Leveson 24.9-46; Rose 25.5-44; Lawrence 24.9-37.5.	
SOMERSET: First Innings	
S J Cook c Russell b Walsh 16	
P M Hobuck & Graveney b Curran 40	
D E Hardy c Watson b Lawrence 4	
Umpires: K E Palmer and N T Paine.	

**Lamb leads century makers**

BE IT to do with a less pronounced seam on the ball, decent pitches or just simply good batting, there have been 10 hundreds and two double centuries scored in the opening fixtures in the Britannia Assurance Championship (Ivo Tannen writes). Familiar names were to the fore on Sunday. Alan Lamb made 235, Graham Gooch 137 and Viv Richards an unbeaten 118.

A fortnight ago these three were locked in combat in West Indies, so it says something about their commitment to their

work to do if Glamorgan are to stay off defeat by Leicester.

Stuart, but, more relaxed, perhaps in less stressful environments, he has made quite a start.

Elsewhere, there was a centurion for Parker, like Gooch and Christopher Cowdrey at Canterbury, he declared in unison, Cowdrey made 79 against Hampshire and his brother, Graham, who was extensively coached by John Inverarity in Australia in the winter, 87. Not one match, in fact, is being dominated by the bowlers.

After their rude awakening from Middlesex last Sunday, Lancashire batted and bowled yesterday in a manner more becoming of Refuge Assurance League champions (Ivo Tannen writes).

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**Adams, 19, makes Derbyshire's day**

By Jack Bailey

large hand in reducing Worcestershire to 98 for five with 25 overs spent. He took a fine catch in the deep to get rid of D'Olivera. He then held Hock's flat-batted swot a yard inside the extra cover boundary — a crucial blow.

They dismissed Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge for 193, during which Mike Atherton showed leg-spinners really do have a place in this form of the game, by taking three wickets.

Needling just under five runs an over, Lancashire were sent on their way by Watkinson, including a one-handed six over square leg off of Stephenson to bring victory in the penultimate over.

Viv Richards, having made his first century for Glamorgan the previous day, took further toll of Leicestershire's attack. His 59 off 58 balls helped his new county win their second successive match.

Allan Lamb made 70 for Northamptonshire and Rob Bailey, his England colleague, 58, but it was not sufficient to beat Warwickshire. Keeve completed seven-wicket win by smiting a four and a six.

Keeve's former county, Sussex, beat Surrey at Hove in the last over.

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**Champion show by Lancashire**

By Tony Windham

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